Volume I

STATEMENTS

In Re:

COCOANUT GROVE FIRE.

Before Boston Police Department

Statements

Boston,

INDEX

	Direct and Re-Direct Ex.	Cross and Re-Cross Ex.

William J. Shanahan
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Division 4
Sunday, November 29, 1942.

The following statements in connection with the fire and loss of life at the Cocoanut Grove on Saturday evening, November 28, 1942, were made to Captain John F. McCarthy in the presence of Francis E. Ahearn, stenographer.

Statement of EDMUND J. FLYNN

(By Captain McCarthy) What is your full name?

A Edmund J. Flynn.

Q Where do you reside? A. 11 Ridgeway Terrace, Needham.

Q How old are you? A. 25.

Q What is your occupation? A. Office manager, Tractors Inc.

Q Were you at the Cocoanut Grove last night when the fire broke out? A. Yes.

Q At what time? A. 9:30.

Q Was any person with you? A. Yes, my wife.

Q What is her full name? A. Mildred E. Flynn.

Q Is your wife at home now? A. No, she's out in the car.

Q Did she receive any injuries?

A She doesn't feel too good.

Q Now, Mr. Flynn, did any other person accompany you, other than your wife, on Saturday evening, November 28? A. No.

Q Were you there when the fire broke out?

A To my knowledge, I was.

Q Where were you sitting in the Cocoanut Grove?

A In the new lounge not too far from the door. I was up at the end of the bar nearest the door.

Q Were any other persons seated at the table with you and your wife? A. No.

Q Now, Mr. Flynn, tell me what did you observe in reference to the fire; what you did up until the time you left the building.

A Well, the first thing I noticed people started leaving the lounge and my wife told me to 'come on'. I followed her and then I heard people saying 'fire'. Everyone was shouting 'keep calm'. So then all of a sudden the smoke came up and there was a lot of panic. As I was going out the door I was pushed down. The glass was broken in the door and finally the smoke covered the place. The lights went out and I finally got out.

Q How long did you remain in there after you heard somebody say 'fire'?

A As soon as I heard them say 'fire' I started to go right away. I started to walk out.

Q Did you observe smoke first or flames? A. Smoke.

Q And what part of the Cocoanut Grove did it appear to come from?

A It seemed to come from the entrance of the dining room.

Q And can you tell me the time?

A It was just about 10:15, I should say, when we started to leave the lounge.

Q Did you walk or run? A. I walked.

Q Was your wife with you? A. In front of me.

Q Was your wife walking or running? A. Walking.

Q Did you observe any of the guests running?

A I could see some running from the dining room to the door that opened on Broadway.

Q Any confusion or panic?

A Everybody was trying to get out.

Q And how many tried to get out? A. Oh, I couldn't say.

Q Did you have any difficulty in getting out?

A Yes, I had trouble.

Q What door did you leave by? A. The door near Broadway.

Q How many entrances and exits were there?

A To my knowledge, two.

Q And how many people were leaving at the time that you and your wife were leaving?

A I should say about 50 in the lounge tried to get out.

Q How wide was the door? A. I don't know.

Q Do you know what started the fire?

A No, but as I was walking toward the door I saw smoke coming up and it was coming fast.

Q Was the smoke coming from the floor?

A Coming from a hallway leading from the main door.

Q Did you see any flames? A. No, no flames.

Q Do you know what caused this fire? A. No.

Q Did you hear anyone express an opinion or state what caused the fire? A. No.

Q You fix the time at about 10:15? A. That's right.

Q Would you estimate how many people were in there? A. No.

Q When you left by the Broadway entrance what did you do?

A I went to the Statler to get a room for my wife and myself.

Q When you left the Cocoanut Grove you fixed the time at?

A It was about 10:15.

Q Do you know how many people left the Cocoanut Grove at the time you came out? A. No.

Q Did you remain around outside or did you talk with any person?

A I remained about three minutes or so.

Q How many people outside?

A I don't know. There were a number of people standing around.

Q Did you have any conversation with anyone regarding the fire?

A No.

Q Did you talk with anyone who knew what caused the fire?

A No.

Q Did you make any inquiry as to what caused the fire?

A No.

Q Did you talk with any person who could give any information?

A No.

Q Did your wife talk to any person? A. I don't know.

Q Did you learn from any source what the cause of this fire was?

A No.

Q Did you hear anybody give any opinion?

A I did not. I didn't pay much attention seeing that my wife and I were allright. I had my hair singed.

Q From what cause?

A From the flames in back of my hair.

Q Were you drinking last night? A. Just one drink.

Q What was that? A. Rum and soda water.

Q And how many drinks did your wife have? A. One.

Q You and your wife had a clear knowledge of what was going on?

A Yes.

Q Any persons join you at the table? A. No.

Q Did you recognize any persons you knew in the Cocoanut Grove?

A Just one of the bartenders.

Q What is his name? A. Marty.

Q Did you have some talk with him later?

A I don't know whether he got out or not?

Q Can you give me the names of any persons that could assist me in determining the cause of the fire?

A I don't think I could.

Q Did you enter the building after you left? A. No.

Q Were the lights out in the Cocoanut Grove? A. Yes.

Q How near the door were you?

A Right at the inside door. Somebody tried to push me through.

Q How many people preceded you out of the Cocoanut Grove?

A Oh, a rough guess, about 15 or 20.

Q Any panic when you were leaving?

A Everybody was making a rush for the doors.

(Mr. Flynn's telephone number is Needham 1366)

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Statement of MILDRED E. FLYNN

(By Captain McCarthy) What is your full name?

A Mildred E. Flynn.

Q And you were with your husband last night at the Cocoanut Grove? A. Yes.

Q Mrs. Flynn, did you talk with any person in reference to the cause of the fire? A. No.

Q Do you know what the cause of the fire was? A. No.

Q Did you receive any injuries? A. No, just a few scratches.

Q And do you know what caused that? A. No.

Q Were you knocked down in leaving?

A No, not all the way down.

Q Did you have difficulty in leaving the building?

A None, when I got to the door.

Q Did you have difficulty in getting to the door?

A It took a while. The place was so crowded.

Q Did you inquire of any person what caused the fire? A. No.

Q Do you know what caused the fire? A. No.

Q Did any person express an opinion as to what caused the fire?

A No.

Q Did you talk with any of the guests regarding the cause of the fire? A. No.

Q Did you recognize any person in the Cocoanut Grove? A. No.

Q Were the lights burning or out when you were leaving?

A They were out.

Q Did you see any flames or just smoke? A. Smoke.

Q You saw no flames? A. I saw no flames.

Q When you first saw the smoke did it cover the entire room or just a part of it? A. It seemed to be everywhere.

Q Were you overcome by smoke? A. No.

Q How long did you remain outside the Cocoanut Grove?

A Just a minute.

Q You left by the Broadway entrance? A. Yes.

Q And you remained outside for a while? A. Just a second.

Q Did you receive any information after leaving? A. No.

Q Hear any opinion as to what caused the fire? A. No.

Q Did you make any inquiry regarding the cause? A. No.

Q How many persons did you see leaving by the Broadway entrance?

A I don't know. It did not seem to be an awful lot.

Q Have you any information that would help us to determine the cause of this fire? A. I am afraid not.

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Statement of HOWARD A. JONES, JR.

(By Captain McCarthy) What is your full name?

A Howard A. Jones, Jr. I reside at 342 Harvard Street, Cambridge.

Q How old are you? A. 25.

Q What is your occupation?

A Right now employed by the Monroe Plumbing Company of Arlington. I was recently released from the Army Air Corps.

Q Have you a telephone? A. Yes, Eliot 8806.

Q Now, Mr. Jones, last night did you have occasion to visit the Cocoanut Grove on Broadway and Piedmont Street.

A Yes, I did.

Q Did anybody accompany you? A. Yes.

Q And what is his name? A. Roger Kaufman.

Q And where does he reside? A. 882 Orange Street, Chelsea.

Q How old is he? A. 28, I believe.

Q Is he married? A. No, single.

Q And who does he reside with? A. His father.

Q And what is his name? A. His father's name is Samuel.

Q What is Roger's occupation?

A A member of the United States Navy. He formerly owned a furniture store on Broadway, Chelsea.

Q And have you seen him since the fire? A. No, I have not.

Q Where did you last see him?

A In the reception hall of the Cocoanut Grove.

Q Do you know where he is now? A. No sir, I don't know.

Q Now, about what time did you arrive there with your friend?

A As nearly as I can estimate, about 10:15.

Q Any other persons with you? A. No, we were alone.

Q Did you go there for the purpose of seeing somebody?

A No, we just went in there to pass the evening away. Roger did know a good many people .

Q How long were you in the Cocoanut Grove before you noticed the fire?

A I would estimate, under the circumstances, it was definitely

less than two minutes.

Q Were you seated at a table? A. No, we were standing.

Q Did your friend Mr. Kaufman remain with you after you entered?

A Yes.

Q As you entered the Cocoanut Grove did he precede you in there?

A Yes.

Q How far behind were you?

A Just about six to eight feet. I looked around near the bar to see how much space there was.

Q Tell me, from the time you arrived with your friend, Roger Kaufman, what you observed, and just what occurred.

A Roger walked in before me. As we got in a little way both of us noticed the place was very crowded, so I suggested that we leave because I didn't have any hopes of getting a seat but he walked over to look into the dining room and ballroom. In the meantime I was standing in a line of not more than ten people to check my hat and coat. I noticed the headwaiter rushing up the steps from the Melody Lounge and he bumped into me. As he did I turned around and saw flames coming up the steps. There were several women standing there waiting for their escorts. The women were completely dressed. Then someone yelled'fire". They started out the door. I was pushed out after them. I crossed the street and looked back. The entire doorway was a sheet of flames. I think I was the last person to come out that door alive. I saw two bodies lying there. One was a man. The second one was beyond recognition.

Q Both of these persons were burned?

A The man was horribly burned. It is possible it was my friend. That's about all I know.

Q In what part of the building did you observe the flames

coming from?

A Coming up from the stairs of the Melody Lounge.

Q The Melody Lounge? A. Yes.

Q Did you see the waiter? A. He came up there.

Q And then you say he left the scene? A. Yes.

Q Did you see the waiter again? A. No.

Q Do you know whether or not he reached the street?

A He made no attempt to get out. He rushed back into the dining room. There was a tremendous amount of fire and flames.

Q Was the fire in more than one place at one time?

A All over the place.

Q Do you know the name of the waiter? A. No, I don't.

Q Do you know or have you seen any person who knew what caused this fire? A. No, no one at all.

Q Did you talk with anyone with reference to what started this fire?

A I heard two versions. One was that the boiler exploded, and the other that fat had turned over on the stove.

Q Whom did you talk with?

A One was an employee of the Cocoanut Grove, a waiter.

Q What is his name? A. I don't know.

Q Did he escape from the fire?

A Yes, he lived in Everett.

Q How did you know he lived in Everett?

A He said, "how am I going to get home to Everett"?

Q Was he an employee? A. Yes.

Q Did you have any conversation with him regarding the cause?

A I asked him where he was. He said he was downstairs. That's all he said. He managed to get out somehow. He said he heard it was a pot of grease.

Q Did he tell you whether or not he observed a pot of grease boiling over?

A He did not say he did. I assumed, from his conversation, that he was told. It seemed strange to me that a fire could be in so many places at the same time.

Q You said you talked with a second person who was there?

A I do recall talking to a woman, a bystander.

Q And what was her name? A. I don't know.

Q Was she an employee or a guest?

A I assume she was a guest.

Q And what was your conversation with her?

A I asked her if she were at the fire. She was weeping and extremely nervous. She was worried about several friends.

Q Did you make any attempt to identify these people you talked with?

A I made no attempt to learn the identity of the man or woman who talked about the fire.

Q Did she express any opinion as to what caused the fire?

A She said she heard definitely it was the boiler.

Q Have you heard any other opinion expressed as to what caused the fire? A. No.

Q Did you talk with anyone else?

A I talked with numerous persons. The usual type of conversation.

Q Could you give me the names of any of these persons?

A No, I could not.

Q Did you recognize any persons in the Cocoanut Grove last night? A. We just got as far as the lobby.

Q Did you go there for the purpose of meeting some ladies?

A No, just happened to drop in there to pass the evening.

A Mr. Tate returned to stand at ease to hear the exercise.

B Did you do study for the lesson and exercise assigned, or do not you understand the lesson? Raise one hand if you do.

B Did you memorize the lesson in the textbook since last class?

A No? I hear no hands.

A Could you tell me the meaning of this or these sentences? Raise your hand.

A I speak with Napoleon Bonaparte. The many pile of soldiers

B lie dead with white faces.

A Have you never seen obvious modifiers dangling at the end of a sentence?

A Who wrote the lesson? Who is the author?

B Who is the author of the lesson? Who wrote the lesson?

A Who is the author of the lesson? Who wrote the lesson?

A I think it is a good lesson. Do you think so?

B Do you understand the meaning of the lesson?

A I hope to receive in return the thanks of the man to whom I have given the lesson.

A Mr. Tate returned to stand at ease to hear the exercise.

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A Who wrote the lesson? Who is the author?

B Who is the author of the lesson? Who wrote the lesson?

A Who is the author of the lesson? Who wrote the lesson?

A I think it is a good lesson. Do you think so?

B Do you understand the meaning of the lesson?

A I hope to receive in return the thanks of the man to whom I have given the lesson.

Q Had you checked your hat and coat?

A I was in the process of taking my coat and hat off.

Q Did you recognize any one there at all?

A No, no one at all.

Q Have you received any information regarding Roger Kaufman?

A No, none at all.

Q Are you of the opinion that Roger reached the street?

A I am hopeful. I thought he was right next to me. A lot of those people must have burned to death before they got to the door. There was an unusually tremendous amount of commotion. They were killing themselves to get through that door. No one succeeded. It seemed the people died in the process of getting to the door.

Q How did you go with Roger?

A We went down in his automobile.

Q Will you give me the registration?

A 808,357.

Q Massachusetts registration?

A Yes. The car was probably registered in his father's name.

Q What is his father's first name? A. Samuel.

Q What make of car? A. Packard, 1939 model maybe.

Q Where did you park the car? A. Stuart Street and Broadway.

Q Did you see the car during or after the fire?

A It's been there ever since.

Q When did you last see the automobile?

A Just about 10:15 this morning.

Q Can you give me any information that would assist me in determining the cause of this fire?

A No, I couldn't, except that I have had experience in the position of a fire insurance investigator and although this is just my opinion I thought it was very unusual that these

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

flames should get up the steps like a blast furnace or a demolition assembly. There was nothing there but steps of concrete composition. Flames couldn't originate from concrete. The only other explanation I can give is that there was an air current irritating it. I know nothing about the air conditioning.

Q And did you first notice smoke or flames? A. Flame.

Q Where was it coming from?

A The flame was coming up the steps from the Melody Lounge.

Q How far were you from the door?

A You mean the entrance?

Q Yes. A. I was less than six feet away.

Q What entrance were you near?

A The Piedmont Street entrance.

Q Is this a revolving door? A. Yes.

Q Did the fire spread rapidly?

A Yes, the fire spread rapidly. I walked out the door, turned around and looked and the doorway was a mass of flame.

Q From the time that you had left the Cocoanut Grove how much time did it take you to get across the street?

A It took me five seconds to walk across the street.

Q What was the distance from the Cocoanut Grove entrance on Piedmont Street to the Melody Lounge?

A It is impossible to say exactly.

Q Could you give me an estimate on the distance from the entrance down to the Melody Lounge?

A On a rough estimate, I would say fifteen to twenty feet.

Q Were there many people seated there?

A No, the people were seated to the right. Nothing but the reception hall to the left.

Q When you got outside you talked with someone about the fire?

A Yes.

Q Have you enumerated all the opinions you have received?

A Yes, I think I enumerated all the opinions in all their phases.

Q From your conversation have you been able to assist us in any way to determine a definite cause of this fire?

A No, I don't think I have any opinion as to the factor that caused the fire.

Q You entered and left by the Piedmont Street entrance?

A Yes.

Q As far as you are concerned is there any mystery as to the cause of this fire?

A Yes, there is a definite mystery to it.

Q From your experience as an insurance investigator would you say it was from any particular cause or from several causes?

A I imagine from several causes. The fire spread too rapidly to come from one particular cause.

Q As a former insurance investigator what would you say would cause a fire to spread as rapidly as this fire did?

A I would not be qualified to say.

Q Was there any explosion?

A None. There were only opinions that there was an explosion. It was mostly hearsay.

Q This waiter, where was he the next time you saw him?

A The last time I saw him he was dashing into the dining room.

Q Did he stop to talk with you? A. No.

Q Did he make any outcry or yell? A.. No.

Q Did he warn anyone? A. No.

Q Do you know what he was going in for?

A No, I have no idea. I had assumed he was going to warn

people, a logical conclusion.

Q Have you any recollection of any persons who were in there, who might be among the missing?

A You could get the name of a man who is a resident of the Riverside Apartment Hotel in Cambridge, Kirkland 4726.

Q What is his name?

A Roger Jones, no relation.

Q Was he there with his wife?

A I don't know about his wife. But this man was definitely there.

Q Any other people you knew in there?

A Several other people from the Riverside Apartments who knew Jones.

Q Can you give me the name of any other man or woman who can assist the Police Department in determining the cause of this fire? A. I am sorry, I couldn't.

Q If you could in any way know just where to get some information would you communicate directly with the Superintendent's Office? A. Yes, I will be glad to.

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Statement of ROME FERRARA

(By Captain McCarthy) What is your full name?

A Rome Ferrara.

Q How old are you? A. 26.

Q Where do you reside?

A. 29 Conwell Street, Somerville. Now residing at 115 Josephine Street.

Q Somerville? A. Yes, Somerville.

Q Have you a telephone? A. No.

Q What is your occupation? A. Musician.

Q Where are you employed?

A At the Cocoanut Grove, in Mickey Alpert's orchestra.

Q How long have you been employed there?

A About fourteen months.

Q And what time did you report for work last night?

A About a quarter of seven.

Q Where is the orchestra located in the place and where do you sit?

A Furthest away from the main entrance.

Q Now tell me, Mr. Ferrara, in your own way, just what you first observed in reference to the fire.

A It was about 10:15. I was just getting on the bandstand to play the show. Down the other end at the lobby I saw some people running from the lobby. I thought it was a fight. The first thing I saw were flames near the main entrance. When I found out it was a fire I went backstage. There was a door there. When I got there I was the first there. The door had French windows. I pushed the window in and got cut on the right wrist.

Q What did you break the glass for?

A To let the smoke out in the event we couldn't force the door.

Q A door with glass in it? A. It was a locked door.

Q Did you unlock it?

A Some of the fellows went around to the side and pushed it down with a log.

Q Was the door always locked?

A It was that night anyway.

Q Who had the key? A. I don't know.

Q What was the door used for? A..Principally for service.

Q What kind of service? A. Maybe general service.

Q Where did it lead to? A. Shawmut Street.

Q After you open the door how far is it to Shawmut Street?

A Right down the steps.

Q How many steps? A. One or two.

Q Was that entrance used?

A The Cocoanut Grove occupied the building next to it.

Q What did you do then?

A I just stood around the place. I lost my coat and I had a bad looking wrist. I was waiting to have my hand treated. They took the dancer and I to the Memorial Hospital. I took the cab home from the hospital. They had me as missing.

Q Did you know, Mr. Ferrara, what caused this fire?

A No, I don't know.

Q Have you made any inquiry as to what was the cause of the fire? A. No, I did not.

Q Have you talked with someone since the fire with reference to the cause?

A Only a couple of the boys in the band who knew no more than I did.

Q What did you first observe, smoke or flames? A. Flames.

Q Where were these flames? A. Near the entrance.

Q What entrance? A. The Cocoanut Grove entrance.

Q The one on Piedmont Street? A. Yes.

Q Are there other entrances?

A One on Piedmont Street, one on Broadway.

Q Any other entrances? A. Not for the public.

Q What about that door you broke the glass in?

A Just a back door for service.

Q At what entrance did you observe the flames?

A The 17 Piedmont Street entrance.

Q Where were the flames coming from? A. I couldn't say.

Q Were they coming from the Melody Lounge?

A Some people said the Melody Lounge.

Q How far had the flames progressed when you noticed them?

A They were just in the lobby at first, then in no time they were all over the place.

Q Did you talk with any other employee or patron? A. No.

Q Have you talked with any person?

A Just a couple of boys in the band.

Q Can you give me the names of any persons who were there last night? A. I will certainly be glad to tell you.

Q Will you give me the name and address of every person that you know was in the Cocoanut Grove last night, that would assist us in any way, that is the employees of the Cocoanut Grove, musicians, waiters, or anyone connected with it?

A There was Moe Solomon, piano; Jack Lesburg, bass; Al Maglitta, drums; Henry Minasian, trumpet; Paul Maged, trumpet; a trombone player, I don't know his name; Sumner Simonds, saxophone; Al Ouelette, saxophone; Bernie Fazioli, violin; and Mickey Alpert.

Q Did he get out?

A I heard he got out. Most of the boys got out.

Q Can you give me the names of any waiters, bus boys, guests, bartenders, etc., in there?

A Frank Balzarini, the head waiter.

Q Where does he live? A. Natick.

Q And he is reported to be dead? A. It's in the paper.

Q Anyone else?

A The other head waiter is Charley Mitchell. He comes from South Boston.

Q Is he dead or alive? A. The paper claims he is out.

Q Can you name anyone else?

A Bruno, the bartender. He's missing. A fellow called Shorty in the mens' room. He's reported dead. Johnny Bradley, the bartender. William Canning. He and his wife were with a party of six. Bubbles Shea, a bartender. I don't know his first name. Martin Breen, a bartender. He lives in Braintree.

Q Are they all dead or alive? A. I don't know.

Q Do you know anyone else who was there? A. No.

Q Can you give me any information or the names of any persons who could tell me the cause of the fire? A. No.

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Statement of EMILIO SORACCO

(By Captain McCarthy) What is your full name?

A Emilio Soracco.

Q Where do you live? A. 758 Blue Hill Avenue, Dorchester.

Q What is your occupation? A. Bartender.

Q And where are you employed? A. At the Cocoanut Grove.

Q How long have you been employed there?

A Eight or nine years.

Q When did you report for work yesterday?

A Four o'clock yesterday afternoon.

Q You were at the Cocoanut Grove the time the fire started?

A Yes.

Q Tell me in your own way what you observed and what you know, with reference to this fire.

A The only thing I know is the first thing I saw fire in the corner spreading out fast.

Q What corner? A. The room has four corners.

Q Was it the entrance near the Melody Lounge?

A No, on the opposite corner of the entrance.

Q Did you observe smoke or flames? A. Smoke.

Q What did you do?

A Someone hollered for help to put it out. Everybody seemed to start for the lobby. They were yelling to put it out. I put my foot on the bar and went over on the other side around through the kitchen. Some people followed me.

Q How far is it from the bar to the kitchen door?

A A distance of about ten feet.

Q What did you do when you did go outside?

A I did not go outside, right away. I found the upstairs door locked and kicked it out and left.

Q You went upstairs?

A Upstairs in the back on Shawmut Street.

Q Is that entrance known only by employees? A. Yes.

Q Did you go downstairs to the street on Shawmut Street?

A Yes.

Q Do you know what caused this fire?

A Maybe short circuit.

Q Not maybe now, but do you know what caused this fire? A. No.

Q Did you talk with any person regarding the cause?

A I got in my car and went home. I know nothing but what I had seen actually happen. I was so scared.

Q Did you talk with any person who expressed any opinion in reference to this fire? A. I haven't left the house.

Q Did anybody tell you what caused the fire? A. No.

Q Have you any information or facts to assist the police in determining the cause of this fire? A. No.

Q Can you give me the names of any person who could assist us

in determining the cause of the fire?

A The cashier, Mrs. Lanzoni.

Q What is her first name? A. I don't know.

Q What is her occupation? A. Cashier.

Q Did she escape?

A I don't know. I jumped over the bar. The girl singer saw me, Miss Goody Goodell.

Q Did you get any odor?

A No, everything happened in one second. No warning whatsoever.

Q And what in your opinion is the cause of the fire?

A Well, I don't know. I was too busy working. I do think they would have had a chance if the lights had not gone out.

Q Well, can you give me the names of any person, man or woman, that can give me any facts or information regarding the cause of this fire?

A Well, Johnny Bradley and Johnny Mitchell and Danny Wise. They are all bartenders at the Cocoanut Grove.

Q Anyone else? A. No.

Q Can you give me the names of any missing persons?

A Whatever's in the paper.

Q Where do you think these flames spread from?

A Make a guess, on the ceiling.

Q You couldn't say though? A. No.

Q Have you a telephone? A. Yes, Talbot 7739.

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Statement of BENJAMIN WHEATON

(By Captain McCarthy) What is your full name?

A Benjamin Wheaton.

Q Where do you live? A. 87 Tobey Road, Belmont.

(B. Operative procedure) [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Q What is your occupation? A. Automobile dealer.

Q Did you have occasion to go to the Cocoanut Grove last night?

A Yes.

Q And you were accompanied by your wife, Frances Wheaton?

A Yes.

Q What time did you arrive? A. About 9 o'clock.

Q Was any other person with you? A. Joe Kelley.

Q Where were you seated?

A At the east end of the bar in the main ballroom?

Q Were there any other persons at your table?

A We did not have a table. We were at the bar.

Q Did you remain there until the time of the fire? A. Yes.

Q You were not seated at a table? A. No.

Q You were at the bar when the fire broke out? A. Yes.

Q Mr. Wheaton, tell me just what occurred, what you observed, what you did, and any facts or information you have?

A Mrs. Wheaton and I had just finished dancing a while previous. We went over to join Joe and sat down at the place I mentioned at the bar. Mrs. Wheaton said, "there is a commotion up there. It looks like a fight. Then we readily recognized the smoke and flames.

Q Where were they coming from?

A Coming from the Melody Lounge up the stairs to the ballroom near the foyer just before you enter the ballroom. I told Mrs. Wheaton to get her coat and leave as fast as she could. We left the bar and went through the entrance leading to the new lounge bar. Just about that time people were realizing something was wrong. We were able to get out with little trouble.

Q Which way did you say you left?

A The east exit or entrance of the lounge bar.

Q Is that on Piedmont Street?

A It's right across from the Mayfair on Broadway.

Q What did you do then?

A I had no hat or coat. We went across the street and went into a tavern. We sat there for a while and then took a taxi home.

Q Did you observe any persons you knew in there other than Mr. Kelley?

A A very good friend of Mr. Thomas Scales and Mrs. Scales.

Q What's her first name?

A Kitty. I am not sure of her last name.

Q Where does Mr. Scales reside? A. Arlington.

Q Do you know the street and number? A. No.

Q How old is he? A. About 43.

Q And what is his occupation? A. Lending library business.

Q Where was he seated in there?

A Tom was seated at the southwest corner of the ballroom at a table.

Q Do you know whether or not he left the Cocoanut Grove?

A I think he and all his party got out. I am not sure of one in his party.

Q Now, Mr. Wheaton, do you know what caused this fire?

A I haven't the slightest idea.

Q Did you talk with any person who expressed an opinion regarding the cause of the fire? A. No.

Q Did you hear anyone express an opinion? A. No.

Q Did you get any odor of any kind? A. No.

Q Did you make inquiries from any person as to their opinions?

A One of the cashiers at the bar, a boy by the name of Joe

Levine. We met him on the outside. He took us to the tavern. We discussed the matter but he had no more idea of it than I did.

Q Can you give me the names of any persons who could give me any information which would help the police in determining the cause of that fire? A. No, I couldn't.

Q Have you the names of anyone else you recognized in there, except those you have enumerated? A. No.

Q Did the fire come up with great rapidity? A. Terrific.

Q Are you familiar with building construction?

A I am not but the boy who's coming in is, Kelley.

Q Can you help us, Mrs. Wheaton?

A Nothing in addition to what my husband said. I did not see the smoke or the fire. I thought it was an altercation.

Q You left by the Broadway entrance? A. Yes.

Q Did you have any difficulty leaving?

A Just a slight rush. I would say we were among the first ones out. I recall one person about to come in.

Q Did you get any odor of gas? A. No.

Q The band was playing? A. Yes.

Q The smoke was coming from the Melody Lounge? A. Yes.

Statement of JOSEPH FRANCIS KELLEY

(By Captain McCarthy) What is your full name?

A Joseph Francis Kelley.

Q Where do you reside? A. 72 Appleton Street, Arlington.

Q What is your occupation? A. Building contractor.

Q How old are you? A. 36.

Q Are you married? A. Yes.

Q Were you in the company of Mr. and Mrs. Wheaton of 87 Tobey

Road, Belmont, at the Cocoanut Grove? A. That's right.

Q You arrived there about 9 o'clock?

A Oh, about 9:30 or a little later.

Q Mr. Kelley, will you give me your version of the fire?

A Mr. Wheaton had a view of the head of the stairs leading to the Melody Lounge. I heard this commotion. I thought it was a fight between Boston College and Holy Cross Fans. Mr. Wheaton very quietly said, "there's a fire, let's get out of here." He told his wife and we went out into the new annex.

Q Is that the Broadway Annex? A. Yes, The Broadway Annex.

Q What happened then?

A Well, some of the people started to cause a jam. I let them get ahead of me. Someone knocked me over the rail and I lost sight of the Wheatons. Mrs. Wheaton had a red suit on. She had not been knocked down. The fire had stayed behind me. The flames were going up the stairway. It was impossible to do anything. That flash of flame was momentary. No way of doing anything. Knowing that Mrs. Wheaton was out of the way I had gotten out the exit into the new annex. The smoke got heavy. The lights had gone out. The flames gave a little illumination. The smoke was thick and oily. I felt a body. It was a girl. I picked her up. There was a strata of air under the smoke . You could see ahead when the tables had been all knocked over the stools. We picked our way over the stools. The crowd at the door pushed us out.

Q Was it a revolving door? A. No, a regular door.

Q How wide was the door?

A I don't know exactly. Maybe two feet. A crowd had jammed at the door. The pressure on the door made a log jam. The pressure forced the people out.

Q Do you know what causexd this fire? A. No.

Q Did you detect any odor?

A I know the flame was a gaseous one. The smoke followed the fire.

Q You mean the fire was preceding the smoke?

A Yes, the fire preceded the smoke.

Q It came along with great rapidity?

A As if it was blown by a fan.

Q Any odor of gas?

A It came from the Melody Lounge.

Q Did you talk with any person who could give you any information?

A No.

Q Did you see anybody who knew.

A Mr. Scales of Belmont.

Q Do you know what street he lives on? A. No.

Q And the telephone number? A. Yes.

Q Did they get out? A. Yes.

Q Anyone else you recognized?

A No one except some of the employees.

Q Can you give me any information that would assist me in determining the cause of the fire? A. No.

Q Can you give me the names of any persons who could assist us in determining the cause? A. No.

Q Have you any opinion as a building construction man?

A It could only have been caused by a short circuit under the bar in the Melody Lounge. There was a series of Neon tubings running the length of the bar. In my opinion a short circuit would spread down through and cause the wiring to set up spontaneous combustion. I never saw anything get going so sudden. There was so much smoke. But whatever happened happened awful fast.

Q Do you think, in my opinion, Mr. Kelley, that some mixture

was there that brought about a burst of gas?

A The flame I saw I know the nature of the composition. It was definitely a gaseous flame and it was completely combusted.

Q What kind of a flame was it?

A It was like an illuminating gas flame. Blue with red tinges. Definitely blue.

Q Caused by the illumination?

A I guessed that it may be combustion. The draft from the lower door might have done it.

Q From Piedmont Street to Broadway made a complete draft?

A Yes.

Q The flames struck the draft? A. I would think so.

Q Would you say the draft was from the door near the Melody Lounge? A. Any exit.

Q Any flames there? A. Tremendous.

Q Would you say that the draft could be caused by blowers?

A The blowers would cause the air to rise.

Q Have you any idea whether or not these blowers were working all the time? A. I imagine so.

Q The blowers could cause the fire to spread? A. Yes.

Q How many blowers are there, do you think? A. I don't know

Q Will you describe the Melody Lounge?

A There is a circular bar. It is a room surrounded by stools. It is all trimmed in bamboo and similar trappings. There are a lot of these trappings down there. Very subdued lighting. You are hardly able to see anyone. The only lights seem to be under the bar.

Q It was very poorly illuminated?

A Yes, it was. I feel very strongly that those Neon tubings under the bar were the original cause of the fire by creating

a short circuit.

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(George M. Godfrey,
Stenographer)

Police Headquarters,
Boston, Mass.,
November 29, 1942.

Statement of JAMES WELANSKY.

Q (By Sergeant Joseph B. Fallon) What is your name?

A James Welansky.

Q Where do you live?

A 869 West Roxbury Parkway.

Q You were in the Cocoanut Grove at approximately ten o'clock last night? A. Yes.

Q Where were you seated at the time the fire started?

A In the new lounge.

Q With reference to this diagram is that to the right as you go in the door (referring to diagram)?

A Yes.

Q You were sitting in the new lounge?

A Yes.

Q What was the first thing you heard?

A Somebody hollered fire.

Q What did you do? A. I started in the direction where the sound came from and got down to the end of the lounge or three-quarters of the way down and people hollering and I was hollering, "Walk." I was shoved from the back out towards the Broadway entrance and several people behind me. It came along and the room enveloped by smoke and I could see flame.

Q From in back of you?

A Yes.

Q In other words, this flame was coming in what direction?

A From the back.

Q When you first saw the flame what direction was it coming?

A This direction (referring to diagram).

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Q Did you go out onto Broadway?

A Yes.

Q Did you have any difficulty getting out?

A I was pushed out.

Q Were there many in that room with you?

A A hundred or a hundred and twenty-five people.

Q Do you figure they all got out of there safely that were in the room?

A When I got out I tried to pull a fellow out through a broken window. We couldn't get near him, the fire. I went up Broadway hollering for someone to sound the alarm, to Piedmont Street, and that was enveloped, and come back again.

Q That room was on fire, the room you were in?

A Yes.

Q Were the lights on in that room?

A Yes.

Q And that is the new lounge?

A Yes.

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STATEMENT OF STANLEY F. TOMASZEWSKI, Made to Captain John F. McCarthy, in the presence of Francis E. Ahearn, Stenographer, on Sunday, November 29, 1942.

(By Captain McCarthy) What is your name?

A. Stanley F. Tomaszewski.

Q. You are Polish? A. Yes.

Q. Where do you reside? A. 17 Erie Street, Dorchester.

Q. How old are you? A. 16.

Q. Do you go to school? A. Yes.

Q. And you are employed at the Cocoanut Grove? A. Yes.

Q. And what are your duties there? A. Bus boy and on the bar.

Q. And what do you do on the bar?

A. People come down and I serve them drinks.

Q. You act as a waiter? A. Yes.

Q. What time did you report for work last night?

A. About 4 o'clock we reported.

Q. Who do you mean by we? A. My friend Joseph Transfatlia.

Q. Does he work there? A. Yes, a bar boy.

Q. You reported for work at what time? A. About 4 o'clock.

Q. You were working in the Cocoanut Grove until the fire broke out?

A. Yes.

Q. Where were you when the fire started?

A. In the Melody Lounge.

Q. What were you doing there?

A. I was down there ordering some drinks, when someone yelled 'fire'. The whole room was blazing. I got up and tried to pull down the upholstery and the other fellow,-

Q. What other fellow?

A. John Bradley, a bartender, came out and helped me. I tried to pull down a palm tree to keep the fire from spreading. The place was thick with smoke. There is a service entrance where I tried to lead the people out, but they all started pushing. The smoke was so thick I could not see. I went upstairs. The smoke was so thick you couldn't breathe. I put my hand through a window to get some air. When I pushed the window out I cut my arm.

Q. Where was the fire burning? A. The whole corner.

Q. What caused it to burn? A. I don't know.

Q. You observed somebody lighting a match?

A. Everyone was smoking.

Q. Did you light a match. A. No.

Q. How many waiters were down in the Melody Lounge?

A. Three or four.

Q. How many of them do you know by name?

A. Just Harry. He lives on Dover Street.

Q. What do you know about him?

A. He is 5 feet, 5 inches tall, wears glasses and I think he is an Italian.

Q. Who was the third waiter? A. I don't know his name.

Q. Only three waiters there? A. Yes.

Q. How many bartenders? A. Three.

Q. How many persons giving out liquor. A. Three.

Q. Can you tell me some of the other employees?

A. Two cashiers.

Q. What are the names of the cashiers?

A. There's a girl named Julia.

Q. What's her last name? A. I don't know.

Q. What's the other girl's name?

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

A. The other cashier is a fellow.

Q. What's his name? A. I don't know.

Q. What are the bartenders' names?

A. One is John Bradley, one is named Soracco, and the other one his first name is Paul.

Q. Do you know what caused that fire?

A. I couldn't tell you.

Q. Anybody talk with you about it? A. Reporters.

Q. Any patrons or workers tell you what caused the fire?

A. No.

Q. What was the first thing you observed burning?

A. I saw the whole corner burning.

Q. What was it you saw burning?

A. Draperies and palm trees.

Q. Was anybody trying to put the blaze out?

A. All the people were backing away.

Q. Did you see anybody trying to put the flames out?

A. Just John and I were the only ones.

Q. Who is John? A. John Bradley.

Q. You and John were trying to put the fire out? A. Yes.

Q. Just you two? A. Yes.

Q. With what were you trying to put the fire out?

A. We threw a glass of water on it.

Q. A glass of water?

A. Well, we tried to get buckets, but when we couldn't we tried to beat it out with our hands but the flames just branched out.

Q. What is John's last name? A. John Bradley.

Q. Do you know whether or not John Bradley escaped?

A. I believe he did.

Q. Do you know whether or not the other men escaped?

A. I think Harry and the other fellow got out.

Q. Are John Bradley, Soracco and the third bartender alive?

A. I don't know.

Q. And what about the other two waiters?

A. I think one fellow helped the other to get out.

Q. Did any of the other employees get out?

A. I did not notice. It happened so fast.

Q. Did you light a match? A. No.

Q. Did anyone attempt to unscrew a bulb out of the light socket?

A. I didn't see anyone.

Q. Did you attempt to screw in a bulb tighter in the socket?

A. No. John says to me, 'someone put out a light'.

Q. John who?

A. John Bradley. He said 'somebody put out a light. He told me to put it on. I said 'I will when I get a chance'. Then all of a sudden flames came bursting out.

Q. You screwed in the bulb? A. No.

Q. Did you light a match? A. No.

Q. John Bradley told you to put the light on, didn't he?

A. I didn't see the bulb.

Q. John Bradley told you to do it and you said you would do it, didn't you?

A. Yes.

Q. You went over to put it in?

A. I was standing there waiting for drinks and someone yelled 'fire'.

Q. Where were you then? A. At the bar.

Q. Did you get up on a stool that was there? A. No.

Q. Did you light a match? A. No.

Q. John Bradley, the bartender, told you to put this light back and you said you would, didn't you?

A. He told me to put it on and I said to the party who was at the table, 'you are not allowed to put out any lights. It is too dark'. The party said jokingly, 'oh, leave it off'. I couldn't see the bulb and I struck a match and put it on and then I stepped away. Then all of a sudden the palm tree seemed to take fire.

Q. Where was this bulb located? A. Up a little ways.

Q. How far from the tree? A. About five feet.

Q. Was it necessary for you to make use of a stool?

A. Yes.

Q. And you got up at the request of John Bradley. This stool you got up on was about two feet high?

A. It was about two and a half feet in height.

Q. Did you reach the bulb or see the bulb?

A. I couldn't see it.

Q. What kind of a match did you light? A. A book match.

Q. You mean a card match? A. Yes.

Q. Did you put the cover back on the matches? A. Yes.

Q. You held the match in what hand? A. In the right hand.

Q. As a result of your lighting the match the illumination contacted the palm tree and caused the fire?

A. Well, it didn't start right away.

Q. You lighted the match and while you held the match in your right hand to find the bulb, the bulb was not illuminated at the time, and you had to look for the bulb?

A. Yes.

Q. And when you lighted the match, the flame ignited the palm

tree was ignited?

A. Yes.

Q. What did you do?

A. I was standing on top of the bench when I saw the fire. Some lady said, 'look, the palm tree is on fire.' I tried to beat it out with my hands.

Q. Did John Bradley assist you? A. Yes, he helped me.

Q. Did anyone else assist you? A. No.

Q. Did Bradley escape alive? A. Yes.

Q. Did anyone else attempt to help?

A. I did not observe anyone else.

Q. Which way did you leave the building?

A. I showed some people to the service entrance.

Q. Which way did you go?

A. Through the back entrance.

Q. Through to what street?

A. Out through the Shawmut Street entrance.

Q. Who went with you? A. A lot of people.

Q. So that, Stanley Tomaszewski, this fire was started as a result of your lighting a match to observe the bulb and you lit the match and attempted to screw the bulb in tight as a result of someone requesting you to do this?

A. John Bradley.

Q. Did any person assist you in any way to tighten that bulb?

A. Well, there was a soldier sitting down there with,---

Q. So that this fire started at the Cocoanut Grove, Stanley, as the result of your lighting a match? A. I believe so.

Q. Is that true? A. Yes.

Q. How long have you been working there?

A. About one month.

A. Spent one month.

Q. You found even you been hospital facts;

Q. In fact first; A. Yes.

Q. Did you have a particular a method; A. I believe so.

Q. So does this site expected at the documents provide' examples' as well' facts are a single typical phrase phrase with'---

Q. Did you between master how in use we to lighten start point

Q. Yes. Mr. Chairman.

Q. Do you do not do this;

Q. As a result of someone indication to do this;

Q. Yes. Mr. Chairman.

Q. Do you right at this point to write the point to right

Q. Result to have lighted a match to operate the pipe and

Q. So that' namely government' did this site expected as a

Q. Are were with how; A. A lot of people.

Q. Don't forget the document types contains.

Q. Through to where states;

Q. Through the back sequence.

Q. Which was did you do;

A. I spoke some people to the Walter sequence.

Q. Which was did you have the initial;

A. I did not express anyone else.

Q. Did anyone else attend to help;

Q. Did you ever see the document types' examples' as

Q. Yes' in helped me.

Q. Do you right at this point;

Q. Did you have a lighted match;

Q. Do you;

Q. Did anyone else wanted how;

Q. Yes.

Q. Did anyone else attend to help;

Q. Do you know the document types' examples' as

Q. Yes' in helped me.

A. I have to write this point, I right to

have been' ,done' you have read it on this'; I right to

A. I am situation on job in the period when I was in this' some

Q. Yes.

Q. You are right;

Q. How did you procure your position there?

A. I went in there and asked for a job.

Q. Who employed you? A. Fred Balzarini, the manager.

Q. Did you observe any fire extinguishers or pails of sand or any implements of any kind that might retard or extinguish a fire?

A. No, I did not.

Q. How long did you remain in the Melody Lounge after the palm tree and the ceiling became ignited?

A. About three or four minutes.

Q. Did you leave before or after the bartender?

A. I couldn't tell you that.

Q. Where is the palm tree located? A. In the corner.

Q. Which corner would that be?

A. Well, there are four corners in that room.

Q. This corner would be which one of those?

A. You come down a stairway and walk around a circle to the left.

Q. How about the lighting there, was it very dim? A. Yes.

Q. Do you recall the name of the person who unscrewed the bulb?

A. No, I don't know.

Q. The bulb was in the socket but not lighted, is that true?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you screw in the bulb first and then light the match?

A. No.

Q. You lighted the match first and then screwed the bulb in?

A. Yes.

Q. You held the match in your right hand? A. Yes.

Q. When you did that which hand did you screw the bulb in with?

A. My left hand.

Q. How much of a space between the bulb and the palm tree?

A. One foot or so.

Q. Do you know the name of the man who unscrewed it? A. No.

Q. Did you make any attempt to learn his name? A. No.

Q. Did you speak to anyone about unscrewing the bulb?

A. I did not notice it. John says 'you better go over and tell the customer that he has to leave the light on. I said to the party at the table 'you will have to leave the light on to see'. He said 'I turned it off' and I said 'what did you want to do that for'?

Q. Did anyone request you to install the bulb other than Bradley?

A. No.

Q. You know whether or not, Stanley, this man did unscrew the bulb?

A. I don't know.

Q. Did anyone else request you to screw that bulb in tight?

A. No.

Q. Just Bradley? A. Yes.

Q. You stood on a bench? A. Yes.

Q. Describe the bench.

A. Well, it's like a tubular chair made out of chromium.

Q. You stood on one of those? A. Yes.

Q. Was it a leather-covered chair?

A. No, it was some kind of fibre like in the movies, something like velvet.

Q. What school do you attend. A. Roxbury Memorial High School

Q. When do you work at the Cocoanut Grove?

A. I work there Friday and Saturday.

Q. What hours do you work?

A. I report at 4 o'clock and work until 1:30.

Q. What is your salary? A. My salary is $2.47.

Q. Do you smoke? A. Cigarettes.

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18 Burard Street,
West Roxbury, Mass.,
November 29, 1942.

STATEMENT

of

JOHN W. BRADLEY:

The following statement was made to Captain John F. McCarthy, in the presence of Harold Kraus, Stenographer.

----0----

Statement of JOHN W. BRADLEY:

Q (By Captain McCarthy) What is your full name?

A John W. Bradley.

Q How old are you? A. 33.

Q What is your occupation? A. I am a bartender.

Q Where are you employed as a bartender?

A Cocoanut Grove.

Q How long had you been employed there? A. I don't know.

Q What time did you report there yesterday, that was November 28th? A. 4:00 P.M.

Q Were you at the bar in what they call the Melody Lounge?

A Yes, sir.

Q Who was working there with you tending bar?

A Paul Mitchell and Emil Sirocco.

Q And there were three waiters there? A. Yes, sir.

Q Do you recall a man there named Stanley F. Tomaszewski?

A Yes, Stanley was there.

Q You know him as Stanley? A. Yes, sir.

Q Is he Polish? A. I don't know what he is.

Q What were his duties? A. He was a barboy.

Q And his duties were what?

A To take the liquor and ice and different stuff.

10 Second Street,
West Roxbury, Mass.,
November 30, 1926.

STATEMENT

OF

JOHN A. MURPHY.

The following statement was made to Captain John J. McCarthy, in the presence of Patrolman Thomas J. Dougherty.

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Examined by John A. Murphy:

Q (By Captain McCarthy) What is your full name?

A John A. Murphy.

Q How old are you? A. 22.

Q What is your occupation? A. I am a barrender.

Q Where are you employed as a bartender?

A Cyprian Cafe.

Q How long had you been employed there? A. I don't know.

Q What time did you report there yesterday, that was November 29th? A. 4:00 P.M.

Q Were you at the bar in what they call the Society Lounge?

A Yes, sir.

Q Who was working there with you tending bar?

A Paul Silverman and Paul Alvosso.

Q And there were three waiters there? A. Yes, sir.

Q Do you recall a man there named Stanley? Tomasewski?

A Yes, Stanley was there.

Q You know him as Stanley? A. Yes, sir.

Q Is he Polish? A. I don't know what he is.

Q What were his duties? A. He was a porter.

Q And his duties were what?

A To take the liquor and ice and different stuff.

Q Take the liquor from the bar and take it over to the tables?

A Yes, sir.

Q Sometime last night, Mr. Bradley, did you ask him to screw a bulb that had been loosened?

A The kid came over and told me.

Q Who told you?

A Stanley told me that a patron had loosened a bulb and I said, "You can't have that. You've got to put the light on again".

Q What did Stanley say to you?

A He didn't say anything to me.

Q Did you ask him to screw the bulb in?

A I told him it had to be done.

Q What did Stanley say to you?

A He said, "They won't put it on".

Q Then what did you say? A. I didn't say anything to him.

Q Did you then observe Stanley going to screw the bulb in?

A I don't know who screwed it on, sir.

Q Did you see Stanley getting up on top of a chair and lighting a match near the palm tree to see where the bulb was?

A No, sir.

Q Did you request Stanley to screw the bulb in at any time?

A Not that I know of.

Q Did you observe Stanley lighting a match?

A No, I did not. The only thing I seen was a flash and I pulled the palm tree off. That's all I can remember. Then the whole place went aflame.

Q Do you know where this flame came from?

A In the corner somewhere.

Q That is in the corner where the palm tree was?

A Yes, sir.

Q Do you know where this bulb was that was loosened?

A It must have been right in that corner.

Q Where that bulb was located, was that where you observed the fire coming from, from the same corner?

A Yes, sir.

Q As you were tending bar would you be in a position to see Stanley reaching up to put the bulb in?

A Not at that time, no.

Q The room was rather darkened at that time, wasn't it?

A Yes, sir.

Q But there was subdued lighting there? A. Yes, sir.

Q So that when that light was put out in the corner it wasn't possible to see that light without striking a match?

A You could feel it without lighting a match.

Q How far was this bulb loosened out from its socket?

A I don't know.

Q How far was that bulb from the section of the bar at which you were serving?

A I was down the other end when the thing happened. I was in the middle of the floor and all of a sudden somebody said, "There's a flame", and I jumped out and pulled the palm tree down and tried to put water on it.

Q Did you request anybody to put that bulb back?

A No, not that I know of.

Q Do you recall saying to Stanley, "That bulb should be on"?

A Yes, sir.

Q And how long after that did the fire occur?

A About five minutes.

Q And if Stanley said someone had requested him to screw the

bulb in, the manager or someone, would that be true?

A I don't think it would be the manager.

Q You gave Stanley some drinks to take to a table when you had that conversation about the bulb. When next did you see him after that?

A I didn't see him only when the fire was there.

Q If he got up pn a chair and lit a match would you be in a position to see him doing that?

A Well, my back may have been turned.

Q Did you assist in attempting to put the fire out?

A I tried to, yes.

Q Who helped you? A. Paul Mitchell gave me water to throw on it, but it had gone too far.

Q Did Stanley assist you in attempting to put the fire out?

A I think so. There was three or four of them there hurrying to do it.

Q What was the first thing you observed burning?

A The palm.

Q The palm tree then ignited the ceiling there?

A I imagine so.

Q Did you have any talk with this Stanley about the fire?

A No, sir, none whatsoever.

Q Do you know what caused this fire? A. No, sir.

Q Have you any idea? A. No, sir.

Q Have you talked with any person? A. No, sir.

Q Stanley Tomaszewski said he got up on top of a chair for the purpose of putting this bulb back in, screwing it in tight so that the light would come on but that he did that with

his left hand and lit a match from a card of matches with his right hand and that match caused the igniting of the palm tree?

A I don't know anything about that.

Q Well, that could have happened without your seeing it?

A It could have.

Q Did Stanley report this to anybody other than you, Mr. Bradley?

A I don't know. He just said, "They put the light out in the corner", and I said, "Make them put them on again".

Q Do you know, Mr. Bradley, of your own knowledge whether there was anybody down there in that lounge that is alive today, who escaped from this fire who I can talk to in order to obtain a statement?

A I don't know how many is dead in the place.

Q Did you learn at any time the name of the man who loosened that bulb?

A No, I didn't.

Q Did you talk with any person about that? A. No, sir.

Q Do you know why that bulb was loosened, Mr. Bradley?

A I don't know, sir, no.

Q Did you see any match lit? A. I did not.

Q Did you observe anyone up on a chair, standing on a chair and reaching to put that bulb in? A. No, sir.

Q At that time was there quite a number of people around the bar? A. Yes, sir.

Q Would you say they were two or three deep at the bar?

A Yes, sir.

Q The fact that they were standing there two or three deep, would that obstruct your view? A. Yes, sir.

Q And you were quite busily engaged there?

A Yes, sir.

Q So that you couldn't see who it was that screwed that bulb in?

A No, sir.

Q How far was that bulb from the floor?

A I don't imagine the bulb was over five and a half feet.

Q Stanley Tomaszewski is five feet eight inches in height?

A He could reach it very easily.

Q He says it was around ten or twelve feet from the floor?

A It can't be.

Q He says he got up on top of a chair. What type of chairs were there?

A There are all chromium framed chairs in the place.

Q That boy works there Friday and Saturday nights?

A As far as I know.

Q Do you know how long he has been working there?

A Two or three weeks.

Q Have you talked to any person with reference to how this fire started? A. No, sir, I have not.

Q Can you give me any information as to any person who was in that lounge?

A Only the persons who work with me.

Q Is there any information you can give me which would help us to clear up the facts of this case?

A There is nothing I can give you.

Q Could a match have been lit without your having seen it?

A Yes, certainly.

Q And Stanley could have got up on that chair and screwed that bulb in and lit a match and you were so busily engaged you couldn't see him?

A Yes, sir.

Q What was the time the fire broke out?

A After ten o'clock.

Q All the seats were occupied? A. Yes, sir.

Q How did you leave the Cocoanut Grove?

A I seen them people trying to get up the stairs there and I hollered, "Don't rush. Get down low", and that is what I said. I put my hands over my hair when I felt it start to burn and of course, I didn't know what to do.

Q By which door did you leave?

A I left by the entrance to the kitchen, through the lounge. We took quite a few people into there. That leads into the kitchen and then into Shawmut Street.

Q There wasn't any fire in the kitchen was there?

A No, sir.

Q Everything was orderly in the kitchen?

A Only the smoke. It was terrific. We went out through the window. We didn't even think about that damn old back door.

Q How far was the window from the sidewalk?

A We jumped out from the building and we pushed men and women out through there. We hollered, "Any more women", and nobody answered and then we went out the window.

Q You left through the kitchen and went through the window?

A Yes, sir.

Q And that window led into Shawmut Street? A. Yes, sir.

Q Can you place that time?

A When I got out of there it must have been a half an hour after it happened.

Q If this boy says he got up on a chair-----

A He could have gotten up and I don't know anything about it.

Q You didn't suggest to him to get up and put that bulb in?

A All I said was, "Tell them people to put that light on in the corner".

Q Have you got any of those blowers in that room to keep the air circulating?

A Yes, sir.

Q How many were there? A. Two.

Q And those were located where in the lounge?

A You come down the stairs and they are way up on top of the walls.

Q What was the material on the ceiling, do you know?

A It was supposed to be a fireproof fabric.

Q Did it burn? A. Yes.

Q How long has this room been open?

A Six or seven years.

Q So that room has been open for seven years?

A About that.

Q Is there anything you can suggest to me, Mr. Bradley, in any way that could help me?

A Captain, there isn't a thing I could tell you.

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Sunday, November 29, 1942
Peter Bent Brigham Hospital
Brigham Circle, Roxbury, Mass.

The following statements were made in connection with the fire and loss of life at the Cocoanut Grove, to Sergeant Francis W. Russell in the presence of Albert Kreponitsky, Stenographer.

Statement of ADELE PENARDI

Q (By Sergt. Russell) What is your name? A. Adele Penardi.

Q How old are you? A. 51 years old.

Q Are you married? A. I am married and have two children.

Q Where do you live? A. 96 Monk Street, Stoughton, Mass.

Q Where were you on Saturday evening, November 28, 1942?

A I was at the Cocoanut Grove with three other couples and my husband.

Q What is your husband's name? A. Domenic Penardi.

Q How old is he? A. He is 59 years old.

Q What are the names of the others in your company?

A Mr. and Mrs. Jack Slate were with us. Edith is her first name. She is about 51 years old and they live in Quincy.

Q Who else was with you? A. Mr. and Mrs. Vito Caradonna. Her first name is Jeanne.

Q What is their address? A. 21 Merrymount Road, Quincy.

Q Was there anyone else with you? A. Mrs. Slate had a sister from Plymouth. I think her name was Jane Zollie, a Jewish girl. Seven people, I think, were in the party, and we went in at 8:00 o'clock. They were in Mattapan at 7:00 o'clock.

Q Tell me in your own words what happened.

A We went into the ladies room with four ladies, each following the other at about 10:00 o'clock. We went inside and came out again. I heard someone shout, "fire". It was very dark and I could not see the flames. I went into a private toilet and

Sunday, November 25 1945
Peter Bent Brigham Hospital
Brigham Circle, Roxbury, Mass.

The following statements were taken in connection with the
fire and loss of life at the Cocoanut Grove, on Saturday morning
Nov. 24th, in the presence of Alfred Klebonifsky, stenographer.
W. Burnett in the presence of Alfred Klebonifsky, stenographer.

Statement of Mrs. Ruth Benvadi

Q (By Det. Burnett) What is your name? A. Ruth Benvadi.
Q How old are you? A. 23 years old.
Q Are you married? A. No I am divorced from my husband.
Q Where do you live? A. 86 Mount Street, Roxbury, Mass.
Q Were you on Tremont Avenue, November 25, 1945?
Q Are you married? A. I am married but have two children.
Q What is your maiden name? A. Ruth Benvadi.
Q Where do you live? A. 86 Mount Street, Roxbury, Mass.
Q Were you at the Cocoanut Grove with three other women and
A I was at the Cocoanut Grove with three other women and
two men.
Q What is your husband's name? A. Domenic Benvadi.
Q How old is he? A. He is 26 years old.
Q What are the names of the others in your company?
A. Mr. and Mrs. Jack Blake were with us. Edith is her first
name. She is about 23 years old and they live in Quincy.
Q Who else was with you? A. Mr. and Mrs. Alfo Castagnone.
Her first name is Jeanne.
Q What is their address? A. 15 Mettimount Road, Quincy.
Q Was there anyone else with you? A. Mrs. Blake had a sister
from Plymouth. I think her name was Dolline, a lewish
girl. Seven people, I think, were in the party, and we met
in at 8:00 o'clock. They were in Manchester at 9:00 o'clock.
Q Left me in front two or three minutes passed.
A We went into the ladies room with four ladies, each following
the other at about 10:00 o'clock. We went inside and came out
two minutes later. Jack Blake said "Hi", about some bread
sales. I heard someone about, "fire." It was very dark and I
could not see the flames. I went into a private toilet and

when I came out, they were all gone. I could now see the flames, and the room was filled with dense smoke. I could not find a window to get fresh air. I finally found a window and could not open it. I hurt my fingers, but could not open the window. I looked and saw a sort of an alcove. I got into this alcove and climbed out of the window. It was very dark. Other people down below were taking people from the window and I called for help. I did not get hurt very much. I jumped into the arms of people below.

Q Do you know how the fire started? A. I do not know how the fire started. Someone shouted, "fire" and I saw a lot of smoke. When I went into the ladies room, I saw no sign of fire.

Q What time was that? A. About 10:00 o'clock.

Q Did you see any of your party after you left the ladies room?

A I have not seen any of our party since I left the ladies room. I just stayed in there for a minute. I know my husband is dead. My son-in-law just told me.

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Statement of WILLIAM GEORGE BURNS

Q (By Sergt Russell) What is your name? A. William George Burns.

Q How old are you? A. 24 years.

Q Are you married or single? A. Single.

Q You are in the service? A. I am on temporary active duty at the Philadelphia Navy Yard, and am attached to the Naval Supply School in charge of Captain McIntosh.

Q Were you at the Cocoanut Grove?

when I came out, they were all gone. I could now see the flames and the room was filled with dense smoke. I could not find a window to get fresh air. I finally found a window and could not open it. I hurt my fingers, but could not open the window. I looked and saw a sort of an alcove. I got into this alcove and climbed out of the window. It was very dark. Other people down below were taking people from the window and I called for help. I did not get hurt very much. I jumped into the arms of people below.

Q Do you know how the fire started? A. I do not know how the fire started. Someone shouted, "fire" and I saw a lot of smoke. When I went into the ladies room, I saw no sign of fire.

Q What time was that? A. About 10:30 o'clock.

Q Did you see any of your party after you left the ladies room?

A I have not seen any of our party since I left the ladies room. I just stayed in there for a minute. I know my husband is dead. My son-in-law just told me.

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Statement of WILLIAM GEORGE BURNS

Q (By Sergt Russell) What is your name? A. William George Burns

Q How old are you? A. 24 years.

Q Are you married or single? A. Single.

Q You are in the service? A. I am on temporary active duty at the Philadelphia Navy Yard, and am attached to the Naval Supply School in charge of Captain McIntosh.

Q Were you at the Cocoanut Grove?

A I was at the Cocoanut Grove with my brother.

Q What is your brother's name? A. Robert E. Burns, Jr.

Q How old is he? A. 23 years old.

Q Where is he stationed? A. Army Air Force Statistical School, United States Army. He goes to Officer's Candidate School.

Q Where does he live? A. He lives with me in Philadelphia.

Q What is your home address? A. My home address in Philadelphia is 5607 N. 10th Street.

Q Tell me what happened on Saturday night, November 28th.

A We met there at 9:30. Paul Alivers was with us. He is attached to the Army Air Force Statistical School and his home is in Montana.They (Alivers and Robert E. Burns, Jr.) were separated from me. Two went downstairs and I started upstairs. While seated at the bar, fire seemed to break out in the corner of the room on the ceiling in the palm trees. I came down the steps to the bar on the opposite side of the room in the corner and saw flames and somebody yelled. Then I saw the ceiling was on fire. It must have started from the palm trees and went to the ceiling. I went through the door and people started to run. There was no panic at the time. I started to come upstairs and then came back. I looked around. The sky-light was broken and people were going through it. I sat down in the middle of the stairs with my brother, covering my eyes with a handkerchief. People were trying to get out into the street. One of the ladies tried to get a flashlight. Heard firemen and every time they came near, we yelled. Finally, one of the fireman got us out together. I do not know what happened to our friend. He was close to the door near the

A I saw at the coconut circus with my brother.

Q What is your brother's name? A. Robert E. Burns, Jr.

Q How old is he? A. 25 years old.

Q Where is he stationed? A. With the Air Force Specialist School, Lowry Field, Denver, Colorado.

Q What is your address? A. We have applied in Philadelphia.

Q Where does he live? A. He lives with me in Philadelphia.

School.

School, United States Army. He goes to officer's candidate school, Fort Monroe, Virginia.

Q Where is he stationed? A. With the Air Force Specialist School, Lowry Field, Denver, Colorado.

Q How old is he? A. 25 years old.

Q What is your brother's name? A. Robert E. Burns, Jr.

A I saw at the coconut circus with my brother.

Mr. Burns, Jr. (Illegible) Robert E. Burns, Jr.) were subpoenaed to the Air Force Specialist School and did come to Lowry Field, Denver, Colorado. Mr. Burns, Jr. was called as a witness. Mr. Burns testified as follows:

Mr. Burns, Jr. was sworn.

Q Will you please state your name? A. Robert E. Burns, Jr.

Q Where do you live? A. 5018 Lott Street.

Q Are you married? A. Yes.

Q Where is your home address? A. We have applied in Philadelphia.

Q What is your brother's name? A. Robert E. Burns, Jr.

Q How old is he? A. 25 years old.

Q Where is he stationed? A. With the Air Force Specialist School, United States Army. He goes to officer's candidate school, Fort Monroe, Virginia.

Q Where does he live? A. He lives with me in Philadelphia.

Q What is your address? A. We have applied in Philadelphia.

Q Are you married? A. Yes.

Q How old are you? A. 25 years old.

Q What is your brother's name? A. Robert E. Burns, Jr.

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Q Will you please state your name? A. Robert E. Burns, Jr.

Q Are you married? A. Yes.

Q How old are you? A. 25 years old.

Q What is your brother's name? A. Robert E. Burns, Jr.

A I saw at the coconut circus with my brother.

entrance to the street where he was sitting.

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Statement of Leroy S. Marks

Q (By Sergt Russell) What is your name? A. Leroy S. Marks.

Q Where do you live? A. 125 Coolidge Street, Brookline, Mass.

Q Is that your home address? A. No. My home address is 250 Stuart Street, McClure, Pennsylvania. It's a small town. My mother lives there.

Q Where do you work? A. The National Supply Company, 250 Stuart Street, Boston.

Q Where were you on the night of November 28, 1942?

A I was at the Cocoanut Grove.

Q Were you with anybody? A. I went there alone. I met people I knew, but don't know their last names. They were just acquaintances.

Q What time were you there? A. I went in about 9:30 and had a couple of drinks.

Q Tell me what happened. A. I was downstairs at the bar. I saw palm trees in every corner. I sat at the bar and talked with the bar-tender who I know. I saw fire going up through the tree. Johnny, the bar tender, went over the bar to try to put it out. By that time it covered the drapes over the ceiling. It started to burn up the corner. I got burns of the right ear and both hands. I started to go as it caught the ceiling. Two girls went upstairs at the time with me, and as we went up the

Statement of Peter S. Smith

Q (By Sgt. Kennedy) What is your name? A. Peter S. Smith.

Q Where do you live? A. 250 Rockville Street, Plainville, Conn.

Q Is that your home address? A. No. My home address is 520 Stanley Street, Hartford, Conn.

Q Where do you work? A. The Hartford Rubber Company, 520 Stanley Street, Hartford.

Q Where were you on the night of November 22, 1944?

A I was at the Government Office.

Q Were you with anybody? A. I went there alone. I met people I knew, but don't know their last names. They were just acquaintances.

Q What time were you there? A. I went in about 8:30 and had a couple of drinks.

Q Tell us what happened. A. I was comfortable at the bar. I was being fleed in every corner. I sat at the bar and talked with the bar-tender who I know. I saw this Doing up through the door. Johnny, the bar tender, went over the bar to try to but it out. By that time it covered the glasses over the ceiling. It started to burn up the corner. I got burns on the right ear and both hands. I started to do as it caught the ceiling. Then it went up the side wall and as we went up the

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entrance to the street where we was sitting.

stairs, the fire went all over the ceiling and was coming after us. There were drapes all over the ceiling. The fire came up behind me as I went up the stairs. Nobody could get out of the door. It was a revolving door and people tried to get out both ways. There was another bar up-stairs and crowds pushed up ahead. I got pushed over and I don't know what happened. I got up on a chair and kicked a window out. When the window was kicked out the flames burned my hands.

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the window was broken out and the flames poured in behind.

Sunday, November 29, 1942
Police Headquarters
B.C.I. 3.45 P.M.

STATEMENT
OF
FRANCIS P. DRISCOLL

Statement of Francis P. Driscoll taken by Lieutenant James V. Crowley, B.C.I. in the presence of Patrolman George S. Kirvan, stenographer, relative to the fire at the Cocoanut Grove Night Club.

Q What is your name? A. Francis P. Driscoll.

Q. Where do you live? A. 27 Clark Lane, Waltham, Mass.

Q. How long have you lived there?

A. Two years.

Q. What is your business?

A. I work at the Fore River, Quincy.

Q. How long have you worked there?

A. About four months.

Q. Now sometime last night did you have occasion to go to the Cocoanut Grove?

A. I went there later after the football game.

Q. Did you attend the football game?

A. Yes. Later after the game we picked up two people in front of the Hotel Touraine and went to the Cocoanut Grove as I had made reservations for the night. There were eight of us, six at the game and the two we picked up in front of the Hotel Touraine.

Q. Were they all men?

A. No, four men and four women.

Q. What time did you pick the two people up at the Hotel?

A. Around seven o'clock.

Q. Where did you go from there?

A. We went to the Cocoanut Grove.

Q. What time did you arrive there?

A. About quarter to eight.

Q. What did you do when you got there?

A. We checked our coats and I then inquired for my reservation.

Q. When did you make the reservations?

A. Around one o'clock in the afternoon.

Q. Were the reservations right?

A. It was not the table we wanted.

Q. Did you get a table?

A. Yes.

Q. Did the table seat eight people?

A. Yes.

Q. Whereabouts was it situated?

A. On the lefthand side on the main floor. Mickey Alpert was sitting at a table with some friends on the right of us.

Q. Were you on the floor when the fire started?

A. No, they had cleared the floor for the floor show about half past ten, and we were seated. The next thing I knew I saw a bunch of fellows at the bar and I thought it was a B.C. and H.C. fight, and I said we had better get the girls out of here.

Q. When you say B.C. and H.C. you mean Boston College and Holy Cross?

A. That is right. I thought it was a fight but the next thing I seen was smoke.

Q. Where did you first see the smoke?

A. Over by the bar.

Q. Do you know what position relative to the bar.

A. I believe it was coming up the wall.

Q. And that was on the main floor.

A. Yes.

Q. You say you saw smoke?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you see any flames?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you see anybody that might have caused the fire?

A. No. I knew it was going quite a while before we knew it, as about a half an hour before my wife said she smelled smoke and we were seated next to the wall and she said the wall was very hot.

Q Did you see anybody try to put the fire out?

A No.

Q Did anybody tell you to go out?

A No.

Q What did you do when you saw the flames?

A Everybody rushed for the back door, we all rushed and there were thirty people ahead of us and were knocking one another over.

Q. How did you get out?

A. Went up the stairs of the platform, as we figured that was the way out .

Q Did you see anybody that might have caused the fire?

A No.

Q Did you at any time see anybody set the fire or throw a match that might have set it?

A No.

Q Did you see anybody throw a match in the palm tree?

A No.

Q How long before you started to leave the building did you hear the word "fire" mentioned?

A We heard it at the table. As when I saw the commotion at the bar I thought it was a fight but it was fire.

Q Did you see the palm tree on fire?

A I did not and I did not know what was on fire.

Q What is your telephone number?

A Waltham 0741-M.

Q What are the names and addresses of the people who were with you?

A Hewson Gray and Hilda Gray, 154 Western St., Waltham
Frederick Kavanagh and Helen Kavanagh, Pierce Ave., Dorchester
Richard Grafelo, Watertown St., Watertown.
Barbara Harris, Newton.

Q What is Barbara Harris' street and number?

A I only know she lives in Newton.

Q Did you see anybody try to hurt the girls once?

A No.

Q How long before you started to leave the building did you feel the bomb "ticking" mechanism

A We heard it as the people. As soon I was the commotion at the
you I thought it was a clock but it was ticking.

Q Did you see the bomb there on time?

A I did not and I did not know what was in time.

Q What is your telephone number?

A M-LAVO exchange.

Q What are the names and addresses of the people who were with you?

A Nelson Clark and Hilda Clark, 108 Ascham St., Westlawn
Theodore Kearney and Helen Kearney, Pierce Ave., Portchester
Richard Cleveland, Anthony St., Westchester
Marjorie Hallin, Newton.

Q What is Barbara Hallin, street and number?

A Don't know she lives in Newton.

Chelsea Naval Hospital
Chelsea, Mass.
Sunday, November 29, 1942

The following statements in connection with the fire and loss of life at the Cocoanut Grove on Saturday evening, November 28, 1942, were made to Lieut. Louis DiSessa of the Homicide Squad, in the presence of Patrolman Gaetano G. DeGiacomo and Joseph Wilkinson, Stenographer.

Statement of JOHN H. HOLLENBECK

Q (By Lieut. DiSessa) What is your name?

A John H. Hollenbeck.

Q What is your address? A. Mathews S-43, Naval Training School, Harvard University.

Q What is your rating? A. Ensign, Naval Reserve.

Q Were you in the Cocoanut Grove, do you recall what time you went there? A. About eight-thirty, I guess.

Q Did you remain after ten o'clock? A. Yes.

Q While there a fire occurred? A. Yes.

Q Do you recall what time? A. Around ten-thirty.

Q What first attracted your attention? A. A crowd of people started backing away as though there were a fight in the lobby, backed into the hall.

Q Do you recall the room where you were, the main dining room?

A Yes.

Q Do you recall which part? A. Opposite the orchestra, on the terrace.

Q The extreme end? A. Yes.

Q Were you alone? A. No.

Q Do you recall seeing the flames? A. I certainly do.

Q In which part did the fire come from?

A It started, came out of the lobby and went down the full

Chelsea Naval Hospital
Chelsea, Mass.
Sunday, November 29, 1942

The following statements in connection with the fire and loss of life at the Cocoanut Grove on Saturday evening, November 28, 1942, were made to Lieut. Louis Mizzera of the Homicide Squad, in the presence of Patrolman Gaetano D. Delaccono and Joseph Vilkinson, Stenographer.

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A John H. Hollenbeck.

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Q Did you remain after ten o'clock? A. Yes.

Q While there a fire occurred? A. Yes.

Q Do you recall what time? A. Around ten-thirty.

Q What first attracted your attention? A. A crowd of people started backing away as though there were a light in the lobby, broke into the hall.

Q Do you recall the room where you were, the main dining room?

A Yes.

Q Do you recall which part? A. Opposite the orchestra, on the terrace.

Q The extreme end? A. Yes.

Q Were you alone? A. No.

Q Do you recall seeing the flames? A. I certainly do.

Q In which part did the fire come from?

A It started, came out of the lobby and went down the hall

length of the bar and flashed across the room.

Q Do you know where the fire started? A. No.

Q Did you see it on the wall, the ceiling or the floor?

A On the wall, nearer the ceiling than the floor.

Q High up? A. No, half way up.

Q Did you see anything ignite? A. I don't know what it was.

Q Did it look like the wire? A. Well, it might have been, I don't know.

Q Do you know how it started? A. No.

Q How did you get out? A. They must have dragged me out, we were against the wall.

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Statement of LAWRENCE B. RUSSELL

Q (By Lieut. DiSessa) What is your full name?

A Lawrence B. Russell.

Q What is your address? A. 1 Rosley Road, Newton Centre.

Q Are you married? A. Yes.

Q What is your occupation? A. U. S. Navy, Lieutenant.

Q Do you recall being at the Cocoanut Grove? A. Yes.

Q What time did you go there? A. About twenty-five minutes of eight, show just started.

Q Were you there when the fire started? A. Yes.

Q What first attracted your attention?

A I thought there was a fight. We all got up from the chairs. The crowd surged back. Somebody yelled, "Fire."

Q When someone yelled, did you look in that direction?

A Yes, I didn't believe it.

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Q Did you see anything unusual in the building?

A Well, I don't know what is unusual. I don't know what is usual.

Q Did you see it on the day, and the building on the street?

A Well, I guess I saw the building and the street.

Q Did you see anything unusual in the building?

A No.

Q Did it look like a trap?

A Well, it might have been.

Q Did you see anything unusual?

A I don't know what is usual.

Q Did you see anything unusual in the building?

A No.

Q Did you see anything unusual in the building?

A No.

Q Do you know where the fire escapes are?

A No.

Q Do you know where the fire escapes are?

A No.

Q Were you there when the fire escapes were installed?

A Yes.

Q Were fire escapes installed?

A I thought there was a fire escape. We all got up from the noise.

Q Were lights installed in the building?

A Yes, I didn't believe it.

Q (By Mr. Dineen) What is your full name?

A Lawrence B. Wessell.

Q What is your address?

A Roosevelt Road, Newton Centre.

Q Are you employed?

A Yes.

Q What is your occupation?

A U. S. Mail Department.

Q Do you recall being at the Coconut Grove?

A Yes.

Q Were you there when the fire started?

A About twenty-five minutes to eight, upon hearing screams.

Q Were you open for the fire escape?

A Yes.

Q Were you open when the fire started?

A Yes.

Q Were lights installed in the building?

A Yes, I guess they were there when we got up from the noise.

Q Did you see anything unusual in the building?

A No.

Q Did you see anything unusual in the building?

A No; just was up.

Q Did you see anything unusual in the building?

A I don't know what it was.

Q Did you see anything unusual in the building?

A Well, it looked like a trap.

Q Did it look like a trap?

A Well, it might have been.

I don't know.

Q Do you know how it started?

A No.

Q Do you know why it started?

A Two or three minutes after we saw it.

Q How did you get out?

A Just walked down stairs and out.

Q Do you know where the fire escapes are?

A No.

Q Did you see it on the wall, the ceiling or the floor?

A Well, I noticed the ceiling when the lights went out.

Q Did you see it on the wall, the ceiling or the floor?

A No; just was up.

Q Did you see anything unusual in the building?

A I don't know what it was.

Q Did you see anything unusual in the building?

A No.

Q Do you know where the fire escapes are?

A No.

Q Do you know why it started?

A Two or three minutes after we saw it.

Q How did you get out?

A Just walked down stairs and out.

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Q Did you see a fire? A. Just a bit of it.

Q In which part of the room? A. Where I was looking and where the fire was, the only part I saw was in the vicinity of the front door of the lobby.

Q Was the fire on the wall? A. I couldn't see. I could see a few flames.

Q Could you see what was ignited? A. I was away across the room.

Q Were you alone? A. Eight people.

Q Did you get out through the front door?

A Out on the alley side.

Q You don't know the cause of the fire?

A I have no idea. If the lights hadn't gone out, a lot more people would have got out. They wouldn't go in and wouldn't give us a light. I made four trips in.

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Statement of WILLIAM A. SIVERS

Q (By Lieut. DiSessa) What is your full name?

A William A. Sivers.

Q Where are you stationed? A. Harvard Navy Supply Corps.

Q What is your rating? A. Ensign.

Q Are you married? A. No, sir.

Q Were you at the Cocoanut Grove last night? A. Yes, sir.

Q Do you recall what time you went there? A. Eight o'clock.

Q Were you there after ten o'clock?

A Right until the fire.

Q The fire occurred about ten-thirty? A. Around that.

Q Did you see a fight?

A. Saw a fig to it.

Q In which part of the room? A. Where I saw lookin' and

Q Where did the fight take place? Was it near the activity

where the fight was, the only here I was was in the activity

to the front door of the lobby.

Q Was the fight on the MILL? A. I couldn't see. I could

see a few flames.

Q Could you see what was burning? A. I was sure

above the room.

Q Were you alone? A. Eight people.

Q Did you hear one person the front door?

A One on the other side.

Q Did you see a fight?

A. Saw a fig to it.

Q Where was the fire? Was it near the front door?

A. Eight o'clock.

Q Do you recall what time you were there?

Q Were you there after the fire?

Q Right until the fire.

Q The fire occurred about ten-fifty? A. Around that.

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Statement of MILLIAM A. STEVES

Q (By Lieut. Dillman) What is your full name?

A MILLIAM A. STEVES.

Q Where are you stationed? A. Detroit Fire Equipt Corps.

Q What is your rank? A. Sergeant.

Q Are you married? A. No, sir.

Q Were you at the Concert Grove last night? A. Yes, sir.

Q Were you alone? A. Eight people.

Q Could you see what was burning?

above the room.

Q Was the fire on the MILL? A. I couldn't see. I could

see a few flames.

Q Did you see a fight? A. Saw a fig to it.

Q In which part of the room? A. Where I was lookin' and

where the fire was, the only here I was was in the activity

to the front door of the lobby.

Q Was the fire on the MILL? A. Around that.

Q The fire occurred about ten-fifty?

Q Right until the fire.

Q Were you there after the fire?

Q Do you recall what time you were there? A. Eight o'clock.

Q Were you at the Concert Grove last night? A. Yes, sir.

Q Are you married? A. No, sir.

Q What is your rank? A. Sergeant.

Q Where are you stationed? A. Detroit Fire Equipt Corps.

A MILLIAM A. STEVES.

Q (By Lieut. Dillman) What is your full name?

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Q What first attracted your attention?

A I was in the men's room and off the lobby. I heard somebody say, "Where is the extinguisher?" I walked outside, didn't seem to be any commotion. When I got out in the lobby, the flames were coming up from downstairs, the Melody Lounge, seemed up in the ceiling, it just spread.

Q Did you see any fire on the floor? A. No.

Q Did you see what was ignited on the ceiling? A. No, sir.

Q Do you know how it started? A. No, sir.

Q How did you go out? A. Whether I went out the side door, I don't remember.

Q Unassisted? A. I am not sure.

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Statement of JACK EDWARDS

Q (By Lieut. DiSessa) What is your name?

A Jack Edwards.

Q Where do you reside? A. Hotel Bostonian, Boylston Street.

Q You are attached to the United States Navy?

A Yes, at Harvard University.

Q What is your rating? A. Lieutenant, J.G.

Q Are you married? A. Yes, sir.

Q Did you go to the Cocoanut Grove last night? A. Yes.

Q What time? A. Possibly between 10:00 and 10:15.

Q Alone? A. Yes.

Q Did you go in the place and sit down? A. Yes.

Q What first attracted your attention?

A I saw it in the man's room as he ran out of the lobby. I found somebody very dead, and the man's face was white. "Tradesman's disease," I said to myself. Where is the explanation? I walked onto the balcony, right over the alley, and I saw that the lobby was full of people and a crowd was gathered in front of the hotel. Where I got out in the lobby, the man's face was white. Somebody mentioned the name of Hartley Montgomery.

Q Did you see anyone on the floor?

A. No.

Q Did you see any sign of a struggle in the bedroom, if that occurred?

A. No, sir.

Q Do you know how it happened?

A. No, sir.

Q Why did you go to the concierge after last night?

A. Because I met the man who had been killed.

Q Where do you reside?

A. Hotel Bonaventure, Montreal, Province of Quebec.

Q You are attached to the United States Navy?

A Yes, of Hartford University.

Q What is your rating?

A. Lieutenant, J.G.

Q Why did you go in the alleyway at noon?

A. Just, sir.

Q Did you go to the concierge after last night?

A. Yes.

Q What time?

A. Between 10:00 and 10:15.

Q Alone?

A. Yes.

Q Did you go in the place any air bounds?

A. Yes.

Statement of JACK EDWARDS

Q (By Lieut. Dillsenn) What is your name?

A Jack Edwards.

Q Where do you reside?

A. Hotel Bonaventure, Montreal, Province Quebec.

Q You are attached to the United States Navy?

A Yes, of Hartford University.

Q What is your rating?

A. Lieutenant, J.G.

Q Are you married?

A. Yes, sir.

Q Did you go to the concierge after last night?

A. Yes.

Q What time?

A. Between 10:00 and 10:15.

Q Alone?

A. Yes.

Q Did you go in the place any air bounds?

A. Yes.

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Q Unnecessary?

A. I am not sure.

good, I don't remember.

Q How did you go out?

A. Another I went out the side

Q Do you know how it happened?

A. No, sir.

Q Did you see what was found on the ceiling?

A. No, sir.

Q Did you see any sign on the floor?

A. No.

answer up in the ceiling, if just above.

flames were coming up from downstairs, the hotel lounge, approx. 1/4 of an hour ago. When I got out in the lobby, the man's face was white. "Tradesman's disease." I walked onto the balcony, right over the alley, and I saw that the man's room was on fire and somebody

Q What first attracted your attention?

Q Had something to eat? A. No, just one drink.

Q Do you recall when the fire started?

A I would say--I had to wait quite awhile to get the drink. Another officer, he got a drink at the same time, it must have taken ten or fifteen minutes.

Q Would you say ten-thirty? A. Ten-thirty,- quarter of eleven.

Q Where were you? A. In the back, in the lounge.

Q The new addition? A. Yes.

Q Is there a bar in that lounge? A. Yes.

Q Were you standing or sitting? A. Sitting.

Q What first attracted your attention?

A Four or five people came through where I was saying, "Keep your heads, there is a slight fire." Right on their heels was a crowd.

Q What did you do? A. I said to the officer, "We better get out of here!"

Q Did you look in the direction of the fire? A. Yes.

Q Did you see flames? A. I think I did.

Q Do you recall where you saw them? On the floor?

A No, the ceiling.

Q Did you notice what part of the ceiling?

A No, I didn't. When I saw the flames the smoke was so thick I couldn't see. We got up and--

Q Do you know how the fire started? A. No.

Q You went out the front door? A. This door here (explaining by diagram).

Q Unassisted? A. I was pushed out. The window had been smashed, the Fire Department had just got there.

Q Was somebody in sight? A. No, just one drink.

Q Do you recall when the fire started?

A I would say--I had to wait during awhile to see the drink.

Another officer, who got a drink at the same time, it must have taken him or three minutes.

Q Now, you got a drink in your hand, and then you saw flames?

A. Yes, I saw flames.

Q Did you look in the direction of the fire? A. Yes.

Q Did you see flames? A. I think I did.

Q Do you recall where you saw them? On the floor?

A No, the ceiling.

Q Did you notice what part of the ceiling?

A No, I didn't. When I saw the flames the smoke was so thick I didn't see. We got up and--

Q Do you know how the fire started? A. No.

Q You went out the front door? A. Had a good view (explanation of what it looked like).

Q Just at first it started out? A. I saw it spread out.

Q What did you do? A. I ran to the office, "No petrol here!"

Q Did you look in the direction of the fire? A. Yes.

Q Did you see flames? A. I think I did.

Q Do you recall where you saw them? On the floor?

A No, the ceiling.

Q Did you notice what part of the ceiling?

A No, I didn't. When I saw the flames the smoke was so thick I didn't see. We got up and--

Q Do you know how the fire started? A. No.

Q You went out the front door? A. Had a good view (explanation of what it looked like).

Q Just at first it started out? A. I saw it spread out.

Q Where was your car? A. Right on the left hand side of the fire department and just there.

Q Was anybody in it? A. No, it was locked and had been abandoned, the fire department and just there.

Q Do you suppose the fire put the lights out?

A Could have been a short circuit.

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Statement of DAVID D. FRECHTLING

Q What is your full name?

A David D. Frechtling.

Q Where are you located? A. I am now at Harvard Naval Training School.

Q Have you a residence other than that?

A My home address is Hamilton, Ohio.

Q Are you married? A. Yes.

Q What is your rank in the United States Navy?

A Lieutenant, J.G.

Q Were you at the Cocoanut Grove last night? A. Yes.

Q Do you recall what time you went there? A. No, I don't know. I hadn't been there more than five minutes before the fire broke out.

Q Do you recall at what time that was?

A I don't know. I would guess around eleven, but that's purely guessing.

Q What first attracted your attention? A. The fire, I saw it in the corner.

Q In which part of the room were you, having in mind where the orchestra is?

A The fire broke out downstairs, the Melody Lounge.

Q You came in the Melody Lounge? A. Yes.

Q Do you suppose the fire put the lights out?

A Could have been a short circuit.

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Statement of DAVID D. FRESCHLING

Q What is your full name?

A David D. Freschling.

Q Where are you located? A. I am now at Harvard Naval Training School.

Q Have you a residence other than that?

A My home address is Hamilton, Ohio.

Q Are you married? A. Yes.

Q What is your rank in the United States Navy?

A Lieutenant, J.G.

Q Were you at the Cocoanut Grove last night? A. Yes.

Q Do you recall what time you went there? A. No, I don't know. I hadn't been there more than five minutes before the fire broke out.

Q Do you recall at what time that was?

A I don't know. I would guess around eleven, but that's merely guessing.

Q What first attracted your attention? A. The fire, I saw it in the corner.

Q In which part of the room were you, having in mind where the orchestra lay?

A The fire broke out downstairs, the Melody Lounge.

Q You came in the Melody Lounge? A. Yes.

Q Do you recall in which part, the floor, ceiling or wall, the fire was? A. At the ceiling.

Q Did you look in the direction of the fire?

A Yes, I was close to it.

Q Did you observe what was ignited?

A I saw a flash at the ceiling. I took for granted--like a bad wire.

Q It looked like a wire? A. There was a light and I didn't know. I am in the fire insurance business. I said, "What caused that?" Just a flash and it spread.

Q Did you see sparks? A. I don't remember.

Q Having in mind a short circuit, you naturally would see sparks?

A Maybe I saw it too late. When I saw it some waiter was trying to put it out.

Q On a ladder? A. No, one waiter was trying to stamp it out and another slapped it with a towel.

Q How did he reach the ceiling? A. I can't actually say.

Q How far from the floor? A. It was in the corner at the ceiling.

Q Could it be ten feet? A. It was rather a low ceiling.

Q Do you know how the fire started, other than what you just described? A. No, sir.

Q How did you make your exit? A. I happened to be walking upstairs, walked right by it and looked at it, and I immediately said, "Be calm!" Maybe that wasn't the smartest thing to do. Before I got far everybody was shoving right for that stairway, shoved me right out.

Q If you can refresh your recollection, do you recall seeing any

wires where the fire was? A. No.

Q Did you see anything there that looked like a wire?

A No.

Q When you saw this fire on or near the ceiling, was that palm tree ignited? A. I don't believe so.

Q No fire from the palm tree? A. No.

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Statement of EDWARD JOSEPH MAHER

Q (By Lieut. DiSessa) What is your full name?

A Edward Joseph Maher.

Q Where do you live? A. 410 Green Avenue, Brooklyn, New York.

Q What is your present address in the service?

A Harvard Naval Supply School.

Q Attached to the Navy? A. Yes.

Q What is your rank? A. Ensign, S.C.N.P.

Q How long are you a member? A. I enlisted last October, 1941, as a storekeeper, got my commission this July.

Q Were you in the vicinity of the Cocoanut Grove last night?

A I was in the Grove.

Q Do you recall what time you went there?

A Approximate time, about ten-thirty.

Q Did you go alone? A. Two other Ensigns.

Q When you entered the Cocoanut Grove, in which part did you go, where did you settle? A. I didn't get a chance to settle.

Q Where did you sleep?

A. I didn't get a chance to sleep.

Q When you entered the cocoanut grove, in which part did you go?

A. Two other Filipinos.

Q Did you go alone?

A Approximately five, about ten-fifteen.

Q Do you recall what time you went there?

A I saw in the grove.

Q Were you in the vicinity of the cocoanut grove last night?

Just, as a storekeeper, for my commission this quit.

Q How long are you a member?

A. I entitled last October.

Q What is your rank.

A. Emeign, S.C.M.P.

Q Affected to the navy?

A. Yes.

A Having heavy guppy school.

Q What is your present address in the service?

New York.

Q Where do you live?

A. 410 Green Vacung, Brooklyn,

A Having sleep house.

Q (By Lieut. Dissen) What is your full name?

Graduate of Emma Rosso Mahen

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Q Do like from the Malm fire?

A. No.

Q Were you saw this time on or near the occiping, saw that Malm

fire idented?

A. I don't believe so.

Q When you in the Lite Mark?

A. No.

Q Did you see anything there that looked like a wire?

A. No.

Q In which room? A. I was more or less in the lobby, I came in the back entrance.

Q Stayed in the lobby how long? A. I entered the Cocoanut Grove, noticed the check room,--

Q What was the approximate time you remained in the lobby?

A About five or ten minutes.

Q Were you in the lobby when the fire started? A. Yes.

Q What attracted your attention? A. The people running up the stairs.

Q Were they shouting? A. No, not particularly.

Q You observed a fire? A. They ran up the stairs, and I heard someone say, "It's a fire." I looked over and I noticed the flames coming up the stairs.

Q In which part of the room? A. I think from the Melody Lounge.

Q Did you see the flames? A. Opposite the stairs.

Q Did you see what was ignited, the wall, floor or ceiling?

A Along the wall.

Q Was it very high on the wall? A. As I recall, there is a stairway entrance, coming up the stairs, and I tried to get out.

Q Did you see which part of the building was on fire?

A The wall.

Q Was it high? A. It was sweeping along between six and eight feet.

Q Did you see any object on fire? A. No, just the flames.

Q Did you leave as a result of seeing the flames?

A I passed out in the building.

Q You fainted? A. I was overcome by the smoke.

Q In which room? A. I was more or less in the lobby.

I came in the back entrance.

Q Entered in the lobby was you? A. I entered the

Commonwealth Street, morning the check room.--

Q What was the approximate time you remained in the lobby

Around five to ten minutes.

Q Were you in the lobby when the fire started? A. Yes.

Q Were there employees from offices

remaining in the street. A. The people

Q Were there spectators? A. No, not particularly.

Q Did you observed a fire? A. They ran up the street

I saw a fire, yes, "if's a fire." I looked over and I

and I heard someone say

Q Did you see the flames? A. Opposite the street.

Q Did you see what was ignited, the wall, floor or ceiling?

Along the wall.

Q Was it very high on the wall? A. As I recall, there is a

basement entrance, coming up the stairs, and I tried to keep out.

Q Did you see much part of the building was on fire?

A. For well.

Q Was it night? A. It was somewhere around

six and eight feet.

Q Did you see any object on fire? A. No, just the

flames.

Q Did you leave as a result of seeing the fire?

A. I passed out in the building.

Q You fainted? A. I was overcome by the smoke.

Q How did you get out? A. I don't know.

Q Did you learn or hear how this fire started?

A No, it started downstairs.

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Statement of GEORGE BERNARD FENNING, JR.

Q (By Lieut. DiSessa) What is your name?

A Ensign George Bernard Fenning, Jr.

Q What is your home address? A. 8644 139th Street, Jamaica, New York.

Q Are you a member of the United States Navy? A. Yes.

Q What is your rank? A. Ensign, N.T.S., Harvard University.

Q Were you in the Cocoanut Grove last night? A. Yes.

Q Recall at what time? A. About nine-thirty.

Q Alone? A. With a young lady.

Q Are you married? A. No.

Q Recall in which part of the room you settled?

A We stayed in the bar waiting for a table until about ten.

Q How many bars are there? A. I only saw one.

Q Is that bar in the main dining room?

A Off the main dining room, towards the main entrance.

Q Do you know what time the fire started?

A We got a table about ten o'clock, and I would judge the fire started between twenty-three or twenty-seven minutes after. About twenty-five after ten.

Q You were sitting in the same position when the fire started?

Q Did you leave or go out from this meeting?

A No, it started promptly.

Q How did you get out? A. I don't know.

Q Were you in the coconut grove last night? A. Yes.

Q Recall at what time? A. About nine-fifty.

Q Alone? A. With a young lady.

Q Are you married? A. No.

Q Recall in which part of the room you sat?

A We arrived in the red waiting for a table until about ten.

Q How many pers are there? A. I only saw one.

Q Is that red in the main dining room?

A Off the main dining room, towards the main entrance.

Q Do you know what time the tire started?

A We had a table about ten o'clock, and I would judge the tire started between twenty-three to twenty-seven minutes after.

About twenty-five after ten.

Q Now, at the same position when the tire started?

Q Are you married? A. Yes.

Q Are you a member of the United States Navy? A. Yes.

Q What is your rank? A. Ensign, U.S.N., Retired

Q What is your address? A. 2424 Lesch Street, Jamaica, New York.

A Engine Gearle Bernard Fenning, Jr.

Q (Mr. Hand: Direct) What is your name?

Statement of Gerald Bernard Fenning, Jr.

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A No, it started downstairs.

A Yes.

Q Were you at the bar? A. No, sitting at a table approximately eighty feet from the entrance to the main dining room, about twenty feet from a kitchen.

Q What first attracted your attention?

A I didn't think it was a fire, I had only an idea, I thought either a fight or a riot.

Q During the time you were there you saw a fire?

A I certainly did.

Q Where? A. Across the dance floor. It seemed to be on top of the tables.

Q Directly across the dance floor? A. On Piedmont side of the main dining room.

Q When you saw the fire, did you observe something ignited?

A I didn't observe what was ignited, I gathered the table cloth.

Q Did you look in the direction of the wall or ceiling?

A I did not.

Q Did you see anything burning or ignited on the walls?

A The only thing was at the tables.

Q Do you know how the fire started or what caused it?

A I don't.

Q What did you do? A. When we first heard the noise at the bar, I thought it was a riot on behind. I told the young lady to get her things and we would leave.

Q Did you leave as a result of seeing the fire?

A We started to leave, we left as the flames started.

Q Did you go out the same door?

A We left at the rear door, Piedmont Street. It was a French

A Yes.

Q Were you at the park? A. Oh, sitting at a table approximately eight feet from the entrance to the main dining room, about twenty feet from a kitchen.

Q What time approximately your operation?

A I didn't think it was a fire, I had only an idea, I thought it was a light or a flash.

Q During the time you were there you saw a fire?

A I certainly did.

Q Where? A. Across the dance floor. If asked to be on oath to the contrary, do you still adhere to the statement that you saw the fire?

A. Oh Firemen

Q Directly across the dance floor? A. On Firemen side of the main dining room.

Q When you saw the fire, did you observe something ignited?

A. Then we first heard the noise

Q Did you see anything burning or ignited on the walls?

A The only fuling was at the lamples.

Q Do you know how the fire started or what caused it?

A I don't.

Q Did you go?

A. When we first heard the noise at the park, I thought it was a fire on Parling. I told the waiter I was going to get my things and we would leave.

Q Did you leave as a result of seeing the fire?

A We started to leave, we felt as the fire started.

Q Did you go out the same door?

A We left at the rear door, Fredmont Street. It was a French

window or something.

Q You said you don't know just where the fire was? You don't know what was burning? A. No.

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Statement of HAROLD CHARLES DAVIS

Q (By Lieut. DiSessa) What is your name?

A Harold Charles Davis.

Q What is your home address? A. 383 Shirley St., Winthrop.

Q Are you attached to the United States Navy?

A Member of the Coast Guard.

Q What is your rating? A. Seaman, second class.

Q Where are you assigned? A. Nahant Life Boat.

Q You went to the Cocoanut Grove last night? A. Yes.

Q Do you remember what time? A. Nine o'clock.

Q You went alone? A. I had a party, two girls.

Q Something attracted your attention? A. Nothing.

Q Did you see a fire? A. I didn't see it at all, just smoke.

Q No flames? A. No.

Q Do you recall in which direction it came?

A Coming from the dining room or above where the stage was, on top of the bar.

Q Where were you in reference to the fire, in which part?

A As you go in the bar, on the left hand side, Melody Lounge.

Q Near the bar? A. Right. Somebody yelled,

window or something.

Q You said you don't know just where the fire was? You don't know what was burning? A. No.

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Statement of HAROLD CHARLES DAVIS

Q (By Lieut. Dibossa) What is your name?

A Harold Charles Davis.

Q What is your home address? A. 825 Shirley St., Winthrop.

Q Are you attached to the United States Navy?

A Member of the Coast Guard.

Q What is your rating? A. Seaman, second class.

Q Where are you assigned? A. Manomet Life Boat.

Q You went to the Coconut Grove last night? A. Yes.

Q Do you remember what time? A. Nine o'clock.

Q You went alone? A. I had a party, two girls.

Q Something attracted your attention? A. Nothing.

Q Did you see a fire? A. I didn't see it at all, just smoke.

Q No flames? A. No.

Q Do you recall in which direction it came?

A Coming from the dining room or above where the stage was, on top of the bar.

Q Where were you in reference to the fire, in which part?

A As you go in the bar, on the left hand side, Melody Lounge.

Q Near the bar? A. Right. Somebody yelled,

"Fire," and I thought they yelled, "Fight," and I stood up. I heard somebody say, "Fire out, don't get panicky." Somebody yelled, "Fire," again. They all started rushing.

Q You went out the door? A. I had my girl and I pushed her in front. All the people in back were pushing. I got knocked down and I lost her. There was a table tipped over, and I tried to get by. One of the firemen pulled her out by the arms.

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Statement of WILLIAM THOMAS WALSH

Q (By Lieut. DiSessa) What is your name?

A William Thomas Walsh.

Q Where do you live? A. 407 Capistrano Avenue, San Francisco, California.

Q You are a member of the United States Navy? A. Yes, sir.

Q What is your rating? A. Seaman, second class.

Q Did you go to the Cocoanut Grove?

A No, I was coming down with a girl and we--

Q You were in the Cocoanut Grove at some time?

A No, I went in to help carry bodies out, not before the fire started.

Q What first attracted your attention to the fire?

A Fire engines.

Q You had not previously been an occupant of the building?

A No.

Q You went in to assist firemen? A. Yes.

Q (By Plaint. Digness) What is your name?

A. William Thomas Martin.

Q Where do you live? A. 704 Cedrington Avenue, San Francisco, California.

Q You are a member of the United States Navy? A. Yes, sir.

Q What is your rating? A. Gunner's second class.

Q Did you go to the coconut grove?

A No, I was coming down with a fifty gun ac--

Q You were in the coconut grove at some time?

A No, I meant in to help carry bodies out, not before the time affected.

Q What time affected your association to the time engines.

A Fire engines.

Q You had not previously been an occupant of the building?

A No.

Q You went in to assist fireman? A. Yes.

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I ran back to get my rifle and I found Jones, "Fifty", "Eight", "Eight", "Fifty", and I found Jones, "Eight", "Eight", "Fifty", and I ran back to get my rifle. One of the firemen building was on fire and I fired to beg pl. Jones of the fire.

Q You went out the door? A. I had my fifty and I

I ran back in to get my rifle. All the people in back were burning. I

burned not in front. There was a girl ran out I just ran. "Two

for knocked down and I ran down to the fire building was on fire

the side.

Q Did you see the fire in progress? A. No, sir.

Q You didn't see the fire? A. No, sir.

Q You don't know anything about it? A. No, sir.

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Statement of ROBERT J. HEMEON

Q (By Lieut. DiSessa) What is your name?

A Robert J. Hemeon.

Q What is your home address? A. 41 Washington Sq., Salem.

Q You are a member of the United States Navy? A. Coast Guard.

Q What is your rating? A. Seaman, second class.

Q Attached to any station? A. Gloucester Base.

Q Were you in the Cocoanut Grove at any time?

A In and out of it.

Q How did you happen to go there? A. I was asked by a lieutenant to assist in the rescue work.

Q You were not a patron there? A. No.

Q Did you see the fire while you were in there? Did you notice any flames? A. Just what fire they were putting out, smoldering.

Q You didn't see the start, you merely assisted in carrying out some of the bodies? A. Yes.

Q You don't know anything about it? A. No,sir.

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Q Did you see the fire in progress? A. No, sir.

Q You didn't see the fire? A. No, sir.

Q You don't know anything about it? A. No, sir.

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Statement of ROBERT J. HAYDEN

Q (By Lieut. Dibble) What is your name?

A Robert J. Hayden.

Q What is your home address? A. 41 Washington St., Salem.

Q You are a member of the United States Navy? A. Coast Guard.

Q What is your rating? A. Seaman, second class.

Q Attached to any station? A. Gloucester Base.

Q Were you in the Coconut Grove at any time?

A In and out of it.

Q How did you happen to go there? A. I was asked by a lieutenant to assist in the rescue work.

Q You were not a patron there? A. No.

Q Did you see the fire while you were in there? Did you notice any flames? A. Just what fire they were putting out, smoldering.

Q You didn't see the start, you merely assisted in carrying out some of the bodies? A. Yes.

Q You don't know anything about it? A. No, sir.

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Statement of ALBERT H. DROLETTE.

Q (By Lieut. DiSessa) What is your name?

A Albert H. Drolette.

Q What is your home address? A. 122 Colby, Haverhill, Mass.

Q You are a member of the United States Navy? A. I am.

Q What is your rating? A. Ship's cook, second class.

Q Attached to any station? A. Fargo Barracks.

Q Were you in the vicinity of the Cocoanut Grove last night?

A Yes, there when it broke out.

Q Did you go in the building? A. No.

Q You saw the fire? A. Yes.

Q You were brought here as a result of it? A. Yes.

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Statement of WILLIAM E. GAUGH.

Q (By Lieut. DiSessa) What is your name?

A William Edward Gaugh.

Q What is your home address? A. Jackson, Miss. Route 3.

Q You are a member of the United States Navy? A. Yes.

Q What is your rating? A. Seaman, first class.

Q Attached to any station? A. On ship.

Q Were you in the Cocoanut Grove last night? A. No.

Q Were you in the vicinity near there? A. No.

Q What attracted your attention to the fire? Did you go for the purpose of aiding and assisting? A. I cared for about 25 or 30.

Q You didn't go in the building? A. The fire was out.

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Statement of MIRIAM H. DUCHELLE.

Q (By Light. Disease) What is your name?

A Miriam Edward Duchelle.

Q What is your home address? A. Jackson, Miss. Route 2.

Q You are a member of the United States Navy? A. Yes.

Q What is your rating? A. Seaman, first class.

Q Assigned to any station? A. On ship.

Q Were you in the Jacksonville Naval Station? A. No.

Q Were you in the vicinity near there? A. No.

Q Have affidavits been your affiliation to the Times? Did you go to the
purpose to aid and assistance? A. I served for about 8 or
20.

Q You signed up in the building? A. The time was out.

----o----

Q Did you go in the building? A. No.

Q You can read the Times? A. Yes.

Q You were stationed here as a result of it? A. Yes.

----o----

Statement of MIRIAM H. DUCHELLE.

Q (By Light. Disease) What is your name?

A Miriam H. Duchelle.

Q What is your home address? A. 158 Corpl. Mississippi. Miss.

Q You are a member of the United States Navy? A. I am.

Q What is your rating? A. Seaman, first class.

Q Assigned to any station? A. Ship's cook, second class.

Q Were you in the vicinity of the Jacksonville Naval Station?

A. Yes, sir.

Q Did you go in the building? A. No.

Q You can read the Times? A. Yes.

Q You were stationed here as a result of it? A. Yes.

Statement of GEORGE M. NORRIS

Q (By Lieut. DiSessa) What is your name?

A George Millen Norris.

Q What is your address? A. 1028 E. Lee St., Pensacola, Florida.

Q You are a member of the United States Navy? A. Yes.

Q What is your rating? A. Seaman, first class.

Q Attached to any station? A. On ship.

Q Were you in the vicinity of the Cocoanut Grove last night?

A Yes.

Q Do you remember the time? A. No, I don't.

Q Could I refresh your memory by saying about ten-thirty?

A Somewhere about that.

Q When you arrived there, did you see a fire?

A Saw a lot of smoke.

Q Did you see the fire apparatus? A. Yes.

Q Did you enter the burning building? A. I did.

Q How far in the burning building did you go?

A A pretty good distance.

Q For what purpose? A. Rescue.

Q Did you see the fire or the flames of the fire?

A All I saw was a lot of smoke.

Q Do you know anything about the fire? A. No, sir.

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Examination by George M. Morris

Q (By Atty. Dickens) What is your name?

A George Milles Morris.

Q What is your address? A. 1008 E. Ala St., Pensacola, Florida.

Q You are a member of the United States Navy? A. Yes.

Q What is your rating? A. Seaman, first class.

Q Attached to any station? A. On ship.

Q Were you in the aircraft of the Goodyear crew that night?

A Yes.

Q Do you remember the time? A. No, I don't.

Q Could I refresh your memory by asking about non-flying?

A Somewhere about that.

Q When you strayed from where' did you see a light?

A Saw a lot of smoke.

Q Did you see the fire department? A. Yes.

Q Did you enter the burning building? A. I did.

Q How far in the burning building did you go?

A A pretty good distance.

Q Anything happened? A. Nessing.

Q Not what happens? Recognize the fire of the flames of the fire?

A All I saw was a lot of smoke.

Q Do you know anything about the fire? A. Oh, sir.

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Statement of BURTON M. SERBINE

Q (By Lieut. DiSessa) What is your name?

A Burton M. Serbine.

Q Where do you live? A. 245 E. Fairfield Avenue, St. Paul, Minn.

Q You are a member of the United States Navy? A. Naval Reserve.

Q What is your rank? A. H. A. Second Class.

Q Were you in the vicinity of the Cocoanut Grove last night?

A Yes, I was.

Q What time? A. 10:15 or 10:30.

Q What brought you there? A. I was just ready to check in the Statler, they put in a call for all hospital men for first-aid.

Q As a result of it you went there? A. Yes.

Q Did you see the building on fire? A. Yes.

Q Did you enter the building? A. Yes.

Q Did you enter for the purpose of saving life? A. Yes.

Q Do you know how the fire started? A. No,sir.

Q Anybody tell you? A. Haven't heard a thing about how it started.

Q Do you know anything about it?

A No,sir.

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Statement of MORTON M. GERMAINE

Q (By Agent. Disease) What is your name?

A Morton M. Germaine.

Q Where do you live? A. 845 E. Whittier Avenue, St. Henry, Ohio.

Q You are a member of the United States Navy? A. Naval Reserve.

Q What is your rank? A. H. A. Second Class.

Q Were you in the vicinity of the Consumer Grove last night?

A Yes, I was.

Q About time? A. 10:10 or 10:20.

Q About proximately how long were I saw just enough to check it the

Starter, they but in a car for the hospital man for first-aid.

Q As a result of it you now feel? A. Yes.

Q Did you see the building on fire? A. Yes.

Q Did you see the building? A. Yes.

Q Did you notice the building? A. Yes.

Q Did you notice the building on fire? A. Yes.

Q Do you know how the fire started? A. No sir.

Q Do you know anything about it? A. Heard it been a night spent now it started

Q Anybody left very? A. Very little anything

Q Do you know anything about it?

A No sir.

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Statement of SAMUEL SUKENAK.

Q (By Lieut. DiSessa) What is your name?

A Samuel Sukenak.

Q What is your home address? A. 2819 West Salem Street, Chicago, Ill.

Q You are a member of the United States Navy? A. Yes, sir.

Q What is your rating? A. Hospital Aid, Second Class.

Q Were you in the vicinity of the Cocoanut Grove last night?

A Yes, sir.

Q Do you recall at what time? A. At about ten o'clock.

Q Do you know what time you arrived there? A. About ten.

Q What brought you to that location? A. The fire engines.

Q When you arrived there did you see the building on fire?

A Yes, sir.

Q The Cocoanut Grove? A. Yes, sir.

Q Did you enter the building? A. Not right away.

Q At any time while it was on fire or after? A. While it was smoking.

Q For what purpose? A. They needed stretcher bearers.

Q You helped to carry out the injured? A. Yes, sir.

Q Did you see flames over there? A. No, smoke.

Q Do you know anything about the fire? A. No.

Q Did you talk with anybody that knew something about it?

A No, sir.

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Statement of SAMUEL SULLIVAN.

Q (By Lieut. Dingeman) What is your name?

A Samuel Sullivan.

Q What is your home address? A. 5015 West Garfield Street, Chicago.

ILL.

Q Are you a member of the United States Navy? A. Yes, sir.

Q What is your rating? A. Hospital Aid, second class.

Q Were you in the vicinity of the coconut grove last night?

A Yes, sir.

Q Do you recall at what time? A. At about ten o'clock.

Q Do you know what time you entered there? A. About ten.

Q Tell us what you do and what happened after you came to the coconut grove?

A Yes, sir.

Q Was the coconut grove lit up? A. Yes, sir.

Q Did you enter the building? A. Not right away.

Q At what time while it was on fire or after? A. While it was smoking.

Q For what purpose? A. They needed assistance rescuers.

Q You helped to carry out the injured? A. Yes, sir.

Q Did you see flames over there? A. No, smoke.

Q Do you know anything about the fire? A. No.

Q Did you talk with anybody that was somewhere about it?

A No, sir.

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Statement of LOUIS ANASTOS.

Q (By Lieut. DiSessa) What is your name?

A Louis Anastos.

Q Where is your home? A. 12 Bay Street, Nantasket Beach, Mass.

Q You are a member of the United States Navy? A. Coast Guard.

Q What is your rating? A. Seaman First Class.

Q Attached to any station? A. Gay Head Coast Guard.

Q Were you in the vicinity of the Cocoanut Grove last night?

A About 400 yards away.

Q Did you go near the building? A. I was in the building. I went in to rescue.

Q Do you recall at what time? A. About 10:15 or 10:30.

Q Did you see flames in the burning building? A. Not much, just in two places, once in the gallery and once just inside the main entrance.

Q Do you know how it started? A. No,sir.

Q Were you told by anybody? A. No.

Q

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Statement of WARD M. PALMER.

Q (By Lieut. DiSessa) What is your name?

A Ward M. Palmer, Lt.,Junior Grade,

Q What is your home address? A. Saluda, Virginia.

Q You are a member of the United States Navy? A. U. S. N. R.

Q Attached to any station? A. Officer's Training School in Boston, Fargo Building.

Q Were you in the vicinity of the Cocoanut Grove last night?

A I was inside, down in the lower part.

Q In the main dining room? A. I have never been there before. Down in the basement where the bar was. We were there for approximately an hour or an hour and a half.

Statement of LOUIS MANSFIELD.

Q (By Client. Discussed) What is your name?

A Louis Mansfield.

Q Where is your home? A. 15 New Street, Manchester Beach.

Q Are you a member of the United States Navy? A. Coast Guard.

Q What is your rating? A. Seaman First Class.

Q Assigned to any station? A. Cape May Coast Guard.

Q Were you in the vicinity of the Coconut Grove last night?

A About 4:00 being exact.

Q Did you go near the building? A. I was in the building. I was in the

in to assume.

Q Do you remember at what time? A. About 10:15 or 10:20.

Q Did you see flames in the burning building? A. Yes sir, just

in two places, once in the kitchen and once just inside the main

entrance.

Q Do you know how it started? A. No sir.

Q Were you told by everybody? A. No.

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Statement of MRS. M. EVANS.

Q (By Client. Discussed) What is your name?

A Mrs. M. Evans. 14 Junior Street.

Q What is your home address? A. Belmar, Virginia.

Q You are a member of the United States Navy? A. C. S. N. R.

Assigned to any station? A. Cape May Coast Guard.

Were you in the vicinity of the Coconut Grove last night?

A About 4:00 being exact.

Q Did you go near the building? A. I was in the building. I was

in to assume.

Q Do you remember at what time? A. About 10:15 or 10:20.

Q Did you see flames in the burning building? A. Yes sir, just

in two places, once in the kitchen and once just inside the main

entrance.

Q Do you know how it started? A. No sir.

Q Were you told by everybody? A. No.

Q Do you recall what time? A. Not before 9:30.

Q Were you alone? A. I had a date.

Q Did something attract your attention while you were there?

A No, the only thing I saw was a flame which caught, apparently, the first flame, it was over in the corner.

Q Corner of which room? A. The basement.

Q Is that room the melody lounge? A. I don't know.

Q Did you see the fire ignite, burning? A. I saw the flame, as it first appeared to me --

Q Where, in reference to the wall, ceiling, floor? A. Just above or near the shoulders of the people sitting in the room.

Q Was it on the wall? A. First on the palm, and first I saw the palm it seemed to be burning, crumbled and hit the ceiling. It simply gushed over the building.

Q Do you know how it started? A. I don't know.

Q Do you know what caused it? A. No idea.

Q How did you get out of the building? A. Came out of the club by the steps which lead down to the basement. We were not far from the steps and before we could get up and get out the flames were leaping fire from that corner and people got panicky. They were pushing and trying to get to the only entrance.

Q The only exit? A. Yes. When I got to the upper floor the fire had come through and was over all the wall and ceiling.

Q Did anybody tell you how it started?

A No one.

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Q Do you know what time it started? A. I don't know.

Q Do you know why it started? A. No idea.

Q Do you know what caused it? A. No idea.

Q Did you hear one of the building? A. Came out of the door
from the apartment. We ran down to the basement. We were not
in the apartment when we noticed the smoke and went up and got out the firemen
were leaving the building and trying to get to the city entrance.
Q Did you see the fire department? A. I saw the firemen as
they were running and trying to get to the city entrance.
Q Did you see the fire department? A. Yes. When I got to the upper floor the fire
had come through and was over all the rear and ceiling.
Q Did everybody left you room it started?
A No one.

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Division 4
Sunday, November 29, 1942.

The following statements in connection with the fire and loss of life at the Cocoanut Grove on Saturday evening, November 28, 1942, were made to Captain John F. McCarthy in the presence of Francis E. Ahearn, stenographer.

Statement of MORRIS LEO LEVY

(By Captain McCarthy) What is your full name?

A Morris Leo Levy.

Q And where do you reside, Mr. Levy?

A 100 Seaver Street, Roxbury.

Q And how old are you? A. 27 in March.

Q What is your occupation?

A I am attending the Signal Corps School, Boston Trade School.

Q And you are married? A. Yes.

Q And what is your wife's full name?

A Jean Taitel Levy.

Q Last night, that would be Saturday evening, November 28, 1942, did you accompany your wife to the Cocoanut Grove?

A I did.

Q Was there any other person with your party?

A There was another couple.

Q And what are their names and addresses?

A The girl's name is Miss Florence Zimmerman.

Q And where does she live? A. 58 Winston Road, Dorchester.

Q And who was the other party?

A Well, it was a gentleman who accompanied her.

Q Who was this gentleman?

A Corporal Harold Goldenberg. His home address is 50 Columbia Road, Dorchester.

Q Do you know what company and unit he is with?

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

A He was stationed down in Texas but he was being transferred to Officers' Candidate School, Chemical Warfare, Edgewood, Maryland.

Q Do you know whether or not your wife got out? A. No.

Q Do you know whether or not the other lady and gentleman got out? A. No.

Q About what time did you arrive at the Cocoanut Grove?

A Around 9:15.

Q And where were you and your party seated?

A It was pretty crowded and we waited about ten minutes upstairs. After a while there was a little space downstairs so we went down and walked around the bar, a complete circle. We came to the left hand corner after you come down the stairs right in the corner in the Melody Lounge.

Q You remained there during the evening?

A We stayed there until the fire broke out.

Q Will you tell me approximately, what time the fire broke out?

A Approximately 10 o'clock.

Q Tell me just what you noticed with reference to this fire.

A There was a party sitting next to us. The man got up there and put out a light behind the palm tree that was in the corner right next to our table. One of the waiters went over and tried to find this light to put it on. Unable to do so he struck a match which set fire to the palm tree at the top. This immediately set fire to the ceiling which was nothing more than gauze. In my opinion this catastrophe could have been prevented if they had a fire extinguisher on hand.

Q Now this man, you say, had lit a match for what purpose?

A To find the bulb.

Q The bulb had been taken out of the socket?

A It was unscrewed half way out.

Q Do you know who unscrewed the bulb?

A The party next to me.

Q As a result, the bulb was partly out but not entirely removed?

A That's right.

Q What was done next?

A Well, the waiter was waiting on the table next to us. The party on the right hand side had turned out the bulb.

Q Did he say why he turned the bulb out?

A The light was bothering him.

Q Did he say so?

A He did not say so but I could see when he handed the party on my left hand side the check he could not read it, so he went over to turn the bulb on. He got up on the bench near the wall.

Q Who, the patron?

A No, the waiter. He could not find the bulb so he took a book of matches out of his pocket and struck one.

Q Where was he standing?

A He was standing on the bench.

Q How far from the floor was he? A. About a foot and a half

Q He took the match from a card of matches? A. Yes.

Q And what happened after he struck it?

A The top of the tree caught fire.

Q What kind of a tree was it?

A An imitation palm tree.

Q Then what happened?

A This set fire to the ceiling and then it started to go.

Q And what did that waiter do then?

A I didn't see him. I turned around and took my wife and started for the stairs.

Q What happened then?

A In the meantime this friend of mine tried to put the fire out.

Q Who was that? A. Corporal Goldenberg.

Q How did he try to put it out?

A With his hands.

Q Did you see him after that?

A That is the last I saw of him. We got to the top of the stairway and there was a mad rush. Everybody seemed to be going for the main ballroom for no good reason at all when the door was probably ten feet away from the stairway. I cut across the onrushing crowd and I thought I had my wife with me but when I got out of the door she was nowhere to be found.

Q Can you fix the time that this man struck the match?

A About 10 o'clock. Just about.

Q For what purpose did he strike the match?

A For the purpose of screwing the bulb back into the socket.

Q Did you have any conversation with him? A. No.

Q Did someone ask him to do that?

A I think he said something about the manager asking him to screw the bulb back in.

Q Tell me what this man said when he got up and struck this match?

A Someone made a remark to the waiter, something about why he had to screw the bulb back in.

Q What was it he said?

A He made some remark about the manager telling him to screw the bulb back in.

Q How far were you from the light?

A A distance of about three feet.

Q And was it necessary for him to light that match?

A If he wanted to see the bulb he would have to light the match.

Q What did he do after the palm tree took fire?

A He stepped down. He did not see it get ignited. He turned around and saw it burning and tried to put it out with his hands.

Q What happened to him after that? A. I don't know.

Q Do you know whether or not he got out of the building?

A No.

Q Can you describe this waiter?

A Yes.

Q Tell me how old he was.

A He was a young fellow, about 27.

Q How tall? A. Oh, about five six or five seven.

Q How much did he weigh?

A I would say about 150 pounds.

Q And what complexion? A. Dark complexion.

Q Smooth shaven? A. Yes.

Q And when he spoke did he have an accent?

A He seemed to have an accent.

Q What nationality was he? A. I don't know.

Q A foreign accent? A. A slight foreign accent.

Q Was he dressed in a waiter's uniform?

A Yes, that's right.

Q Have you ever seen him before? A. No.

Q Did you hear anybody request him to tighten the bulb in the socket? A. No sir.

Q Did he say something within your hearing?

A About the manager asking him to tighten the bulb.

Q You did not hear the manager give him any orders? A. No.

Q When this patron had unscrewed the bulb partly out of the socket, how long a period of time expired between that and the time the match was lit?

A Not more than ten minutes.

Q That is a long time, Mr. Levy.

A It was a very short time.

Q What was the waiter doing then?

A He was getting drinks.

Q Did he see the man unscrew the bulb?

A No, I don't think so.

Q Did he know the man had unscrewed the bulb?

A No, he didn't.

Q Can you give me the approximate time that the match was lit?

A After he brought the drinks.

Q Where did he bring the drinks?

A To the table to my left from the bar. He had to walk about twenty feet. Then he went back there and then came over to the palm tree to screw the bulb. It took about five or ten minutes for the whole procedure.

Q And while you were down there in the Melody Lounge did you observe anyone connected with the Cocoanut Grove discuss any matter with any of the officials? A. No.

Q Did you hear anybody request him to tighten the bulb?

A No sir.

Q It was only what he said, that he was requested to do it?

A Yes.

Q Did you know the manager of the Cocoanut Grove?

A No sir.

Q This was an imitation palm tree, wasn't it? A. Yes.

Q And the container was on the floor? A. Yes.

Q And how high did it stand from the floor?

A Not more than a foot or a foot and a half.

Q How high was the ceiling?

A A low ceiling, not more than 10 feet high.

Q And were there any other palm trees?

A I think they had them all over the Melody Lounge.

Q Could you give me an estimate? A. I couldn't.

Q And how tall would you say the palm tree was?

A Oh, about eight or nine feet.

Q And how much of a spread did it have?

A Not very much. About two feet at the most.

Q Can you describe the material on the ceiling?

A It looked like gauze to me.

Q And that became ignited? A. Very quickly.

Q Did you observe what any one did in there to prevent the fire from spreading other than the corporal?

A No sir.

Q He was the only one you saw?

A The only guest that went near the fire.

Q And do you know if there were any fire extinguishers there?

A I would say there wasn't because if they had some fire extinguishers they could have put out the fire.

Q And how long did you remain after you observed the palm tree ignite?

A Just long enough to get out of my seat and make a dash for the stairway.

Q Your wife was ahead of you on the way out? A. Yes.

Q What door did you leave by?

A The revolving door on Piedmont Street. I think I was the second last person to leave through that door.

Q How far was it from your seat in the Melody Lounge to the revolving door?

A I had to travel the whole width of the floor to get to the stairway and I had to go up the stairway, and from the stairway to the door was a distance of about fifteen or twenty feet.

Q And were there many persons attempting to leave?

A Not through that door. They were pushing towards the main ballroom.

Q Did you receive any injuries as a result of that fire?

A I had both my ears singed.

Q Any other injuries? A. No sir.

Q And how was that caused? A. From the heat.

Q Had the flames made headway rapidly before you got out?

A I must have been about ten feet ahead of the flames and when I reached the top of the stairway they were ten feet in front of me.

Q In that Melody Lounge, was there anything like sand or extinguishers to prevent the spread of fire? A. No sir.

Q Where was the last place you observed your wife?

A I think they called it the lobby, going towards the door on the Piedmont Street side.

Q Were there many people in front of you?

A Oh, it was jammed.

Q Have you any additional facts that you could give me to help me and the Boston Police Department to determine the cause of this fire?

A All I know is that I left the place. Another fellow came from behind me and when I turned around he was burned to a crisp in the doorway.

Q Were there any blowers in the Melody Lounge?

A I couldn't say.

Q Did you see any sand? A. No.

Q Did you see anything to prevent fire from spreading?

A No.

Q How was the lighting? A. Very dim.

Q Were there any doors or windows in the Melody Lounge?

A No.

Q Was the light sufficient to enable you to read?

A In order to read you had to get directly under the light. If you were about five feet away from the light you couldn't see anything.

Q How many people were in the Melody Lounge when the fire started?

A I am not a very good estimator of crowds but from what I could judge I would say anywhere from 150 to 250. It was jammed much beyond the seating capacity. Many were standing.

Q Were there a number of ladies there? A. Many.

Q What did you do when you got out on Piedmont Street?

A I walked around in a daze. I was looking for my wife.

Q Did you talk with anyone about the cause of the fire?

A No.

Q Did any of your friends attempt to locate you?

A No, they did not know I was in there. I was walking around in my suit coat.

Q Did you have another coat?

A A topcoat and hat in the check room.

Q What kind of coat?

A Tan camel hair topcoat, and a brown felt hat.

Q Any name on the hat or coat?

A There was in the hat. It said "Guyer".

Q Any name on the topcoat? A. No sir.

Q Anything else that you can think of now that would help us in establishing the cause of this fire? A. No sir.

Q Would you know this waiter again? A. I couldn't say.

Q Do you think he might have escaped from the fire?

A He might have.

Q Could you tell me the color of his hair? A. No.

Q Have you a telephone where we can reach you?

A I am now staying at my mother's house at 12 Abbot Street, Dorchester. You can reach me there. The telephone number is Columbia 0483.

Q Can you give me the names of any persons you observed in that Melody Lounge other than Corporal Goldenberg and his lady friend and your wife? A. No.

Q Did your wife have any property, any jewelry, etc.?

A Yes. She was wearing a gold Benrus watch with a gold link bracelet. She had an engagement ring with a Tiffany setting about 118 points. She had a wedding band, gold and platinum, approximately a quarter of an inch wide with an engraved rose on it.

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Sunday, November 29, 1942
Peter Bent Brigham Hospital
Brigham Circle, Roxbury, Mass.

The following statements were made in connection with the fire and loss of life at the Cocoanut Grove, to Sergeant Francis W. Russell, in the presence of Albert Kreponitsky, Stenographer.

Statement of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph McHugh

Q (By Sergt. Russell) What is your name?

A (By Mrs. McHugh) My name is Winifred McHugh.

Q And that of your husband? A. Joseph B. McHugh.

Q What is your address? A. 80 Delwood Road, Bronxville, New York.

Q Will you tell me what happened on Saturday, November 28th?

A We were in Boston for the Boston College game and went to the Cocoanut Grove in John J. Walsh's party.

Q You mean John J. Walsh, Boston Committee on Public Safety?

A Yes.

Q Were you up-stairs or downstairs? A. On the main floor.

Q What time did you enter? A. About 6:30.

Q What came to your mind? A. Mr. Walsh at about 10:00 o'clock said it was time to leave. We had a couple of drinks. When we were about to leave, we saw a commotion and somebody said there must be a fire, and with that I heard, "take it easy, there's a fire." We went to the left where there was supposed to be a wall. The first thing I knew, there was an exit there. We walked about three steps when we got hold of somebody and heard a yell. Then a table hit us. We saw the flames and as we walked down, I saw it come across on the ceiling and the roof. The next thing I knew, the lights were out.

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Q What time did you enter? A. About 8:30.

Q What came of your mining? A. It. Water at about 10:00 o'clock

said it was time to leave. We had a couple of drinks. Then we went about to leave; we saw a commotion and everybody was there must be a fire, and with that I heard, "shake it easy, there's a fire." We went to the left where there was another exit there a well. The first thing I knew, there was an exit there and we walked about to big pole or something and we walked about there where we got to the stairs and we walked down, I was it come across on the ceiling and the door the next thing I knew, the flames were out.

Q Mr. Russell, in the presence of expert photographer, photographed the following statements were made in connection with the fire and loss of life at the Cocoanut Grove, on Saturday, November 28, 1942, in the presence of Mr. Joseph R. Nolan.

Statement of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Nolan

Q (By Serg. Russell) What is your name?

A (By Mrs. Nolan) My name is Antoinette Nolan.

Q And first of your husband? A. Joseph R. Nolan.

Q What is your address? A. 80 Delmont Road, Dorchester, Mass.

Q What time did you enter? A. About 8:30.

Q What time did you leave? A. It. Water at about 10:00 o'clock

Q Were you up-stairs or downstairs? A. On the main floor.

A Yes.

Q You mean John J. Nolan, Boston Committee on Public Safety?

Cocoanut Grove in John J. Nolan's house.

A We were in Boston for the Boston College game and went to the

Q Will you tell me what happened on Saturday, November 28th?

York.

Sunday, November 29, 1942
Cambridge City Hospital
1569 Cambridge St., Cambridge.

Statement of Thomas McGreevey

Q (By Sergt. Russell) What is your name? A. Thomas McGreevey.

Q How old are you? A. 40 years old.

Q What is your address? A. 200 Bellevue Street, West Roxbury.

Q Are you married? A. Yes.

Q Tell me what happened on Saturday night. A. I went down to the Cocoanut Grove with my wife, Ruth Louise. The two children were at home. We left home at about 8:00 o'clock. We were in the main dining room of the Cocoanut Grove.

Q What happened then? A. All of a sudden, there seemed to be a stampede and somebody shouted, "fire". "Stay calm", I said, "We'll find a way out". As we stood up, we were knocked down by the mob. We rushed to where the waiters were bringing trays from the kitchen. The lights were out in the room and no lights were on. There was no flame at that time. It was all smoke. The room filled up quickly with people moving around and pushing. This room was in the back of the building. I passed out and woke up here.

Cambridge, November 20, 1942
Cambridge City Hospital
1809 Cambridge St., Cambrid

Statement of Thomas McCreevey

Q (by Sergt. Russell) What is your name? A. Thomas McCreevey.

Q How old are you? A. 40 years old.

Q What is your address? A. 800 Bellevue Street, West Roxbury.

Q Are you married? A. Yes.

Q Tell us what happened on Saturday night. A. -I went down to the Cocoanut Grove with my wife, Ruth Lodge. The two children were at home. We left home at about 8:00 o'clock. We were in the main dining room of the Cocoanut Grove.

Q What happened then? A. All of a sudden, there seemed to be a stampede and somebody shouted, "Fire". "Stay calm", I said, "We'll find a way out". As we stood up, we were knocked down by the rush. We rushed to where the waiters were bringing trays from the kitchen. The lights were out in the room and no lights were on. There was no flame at that time. It was all smoke. The room filled up quickly with people moving around and pushing. This room was in the back of the building. I passed out and woke up here.

Sunday, November 29, 1942
Brighton Marine Hospital
Warren Ave., Brighton, Mass.

Statement of James W. Lane

Q (By Sergt. Russell) What is your name? A. James W. Lane.

Q How old are you? A. 24 years.

Q Are you single or married? A. single.

Q You are in the United States Coast Guard? A. Yes.

Q What is your home address? A. 5227 Ivanhoe Street, Duluth, Minnesota.

Q What is your rating? A. Chief Machinist's Mate.

Q Where are you stationed? A. I am stationed at the Atlantic ship yard in East Boston on the Cutter, Balsam.

Q In your own words, tell me what happened on Saturday evening, November 28, 1942? A. I was in the Melody Room of the Cocoanut Grove with a shipmate and was in there when the fire started.

Q What was the name of your shipmate?

A Donald W. Lauer. He is from Buffalo or Arcadia, New York. He is on the U. S. S. Cowslip in Commonwealth Pier.

Q What is his rating? A. Chief Machinist's Mate.

Q Is he married or single? A. Single.

Q What time did you go to the Cocoanut Grove? A. About 10:00.

Q What happened?

A We went down the elevator down in the lower lounge. We were sitting at a table in the bottom of the steps. We were sitting with one man and two women. I didn't even finish drinking one drink. While sitting at the bottom of the steps, the ceiling started on fire.

Q What was the first thing that came to you?

Sunday, November 29, 1942
Brighton Marine Hospital
Warren Ave., Brighton, Mass.

Statement of James W. Lane

Q (By Sergt. Burnell) What is your name? A. James W. Lane.

Q How old are you? A. 24 years.

Q Are you single or married? A. single.

Q You are in the United States Coast Guard? A. Yes.

Q What is your home address? A. 5227 Ivanhoe Street, Duluth, Minnesota.

Q What is your rating? A. Chief Machinist's Mate.

Q Where are you stationed? A. I am stationed at the Atlantic ship yard in East Boston on the Cutter, Salem.

Q In your own words, tell me what happened on Saturday evening, November 28, 1942? A. I was in the Melody Room of the Cocoanut Grove with a shipmate and was in there when the fire started.

Q What was the name of your shipmate?

A Donald W. Lanier. He is from Buffalo or Arcadia, New York. He is on the U. S. S. Cowslip in Commonwealth Pier.

Q What is his rating? A. Chief Machinist's Mate.

Q Is he married or single? A. Single.

Q What time did you go to the Cocoanut Grove? A. About 10:00.

Q What happened?

A We went down the elevator down in the lower lounge. We were sitting at a table in the bottom of the steps. We were sitting with one man and two women. I didn't even finish drinking one drink. While sitting at the bottom of the steps, the ceiling started on fire.

Q What was the first thing that came to you?

A I saw the flames start from the corner and work out.

Q Did you know what was in the corner? A palm tree?

A I could not see if there was a palm tree. The fire started in the corner of the ceiling and came across. Both of us stood up, looked over the situation, and tried to restrain the crowd. In less than 3 seconds, the flames were over to the stairway. We were standing in the stairway, trying to keep order.

Q How did you get out?

A I went up the stairway, and I believe my friend is still there. Everybody in the back was cut off.

Q How do you think the fire started?

A The first flames I saw were in the corner of the ceiling.

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Statement of Eugene Estey

Q (By Sergt. Russell) What is your name? A. Eugene Estey.

Q Where do you live? A. 285 Chestnut Avenue, Jamaica Plain.

Q Are you married? A. Yes, I have a wife and five step-children.

Q Where are you employed? A. The Boston Fire Department. I am stationed with Engine 22, Warren Avenue.

Q What happened last night? A. I responded to an alarm. I went down there and worked for a long time until the fire was pretty well knocked down. I was soaked. It was a pretty horrible sight and I began to feel squeamish. I went outside and somebody gave me a cigarette. The next thing I know, I woke up here this morning.

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Statement of Andrew Kapek

Q (Pl. Serg. Kasnelt) What is your name? A. Andrew Kapek.

Q Where do you live? A. 1831 Chestnut Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio.

Q Are you married? A. Yes, I have a wife and five grown-children.

Q What do you do? A. I am a foreman with the Department. I am employed with the Lake Erie Electric Railway.

Q Were you employed with the Lake Erie Electric Railway on the night of March 22, 1944?

A. I responded to an alarm. I went down there and worked for a long time until the fire was out.

Q Were you called to the Lake Erie Electric Railway Company's barn on the night of March 22, 1944?

A. Yes, I was called home about 7:30 p.m. I went down there and worked all night.

Q How did you get out?

A I went up the elevator, and I believe we twisted it until there was a break.

Q How did you find the fire started?

A The first flames I saw were in the corner of the building.

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I saw the flames start from the corner and work out.

Q Did you know what was in the corner? A Paint stock.

A I could not see it there was a bright glare.

Q The fire started in the corner of the building and came across. Both of us ran upstairs, looked over the situation, and tried to restrain the fire. It had been burning 5 minutes, and flames were over to the corner. We were standing in the elevator trying to keep control. We were standing in the elevator, and we were called in the office. Kapek, Andrew Vacuno.

Q Now did you hear onto

A I went up the elevator, and I believe we twisted it until there was a break.

Q How did you find the fire started?

A The first flames I saw were in the corner of the building.

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Fire Headquarters,
Bristol Street,
Boston, Mass.,
November 30, 1942.

The following statement was made to Fire Commissioner William A. Reilly, in the presence of Fire Chief Samuel Pope, Sergeant Joseph B. Fallon, Bureau of Criminal Investigation, and Thomas F. Burke, Stenographer.

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Statement of STANLEY TOMASZEWSKI:

Q (By Fire Commissioner William A. Reilly) Stanley, this is a hearing to determine the cause of the fire in the Cocoanut Grove last Saturday night. Just an investigation on the part of the Fire Commissioner. We want you to tell us just what you know about the fire. (Stanley Tomaszewski takes oath) What is your name?

A Stanley Tomaszewski.

Q Where do you live? A. 17 Erie Street, Dorchester.

Q By whom are you employed? A. The first time, I was employed by Frank Barzarine.

Q Who is he? A. I understood he was the acting manager.

Q Of the Cocoanut Grove? A. Yes, sir.

Q How long were you employed? A. About two weeks and then there was an opening at the bar and got the job as a bar boy.

Q When you were first employed by Frank, what were you doing?

A Just a bus boy.

Q How old are you? A. 16.

Q What are the duties of a bar boy?

A Serving drinks at the tables.

Q Were you at the Cocoanut Grove on Saturday night, the night of the fire?

A Yes, sir.

Q Where were you located? A. In the Melody lounge.

Statement by Dmitri Dmitrievich:

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(Mr Kite commissioner Willis in position 'Sidney' this is a
Statement to Dmitri Dmitrievich: Kite to Sidney: Kite to Dmitri
Dmitri Dmitrievich: Kite to Sidney: Kite to Dmitri Dmitrievich:
Statement to Dmitri Dmitrievich:

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The following statement was sent to Mr Dmitrievich
MILLIN v. POLITA, if he responds to Mr Kite commissioner Sidney
Sergeant Joseph v. Milton, Milton v. Sergeant Joseph, Sergeant
Joseph v. Milton, Milton v. Sergeant Joseph.

Sergeant Joseph v. Milton, Milton v. Sergeant Joseph.
Sergeant Joseph v. Milton, Milton v. Sergeant Joseph.
Sergeant Joseph v. Milton, Milton v. Sergeant Joseph.

Q Is it downstairs in the basement of the building?

A Yes, sir.

Q How many exits are there from the melody lounge?

A Two.

Q One, at the stairway, and another out the kitchen?

A Yes, sir.

Q And from the kitchen, where do you get out?

A A couple of stairs, one to the dining room and one to the back way.

Q Would you tell us just what happened?

A I was working there serving drinks and John said----

Q Who is John?

A John Bradley. He said, go over the corner and put on the light, somebody put it off. I went over to the soldier who shut it off. There was a soldier and a girl friend.

Q What part of the room is this? A. Near the kitchen.

Q The fathest corner away from the stairs? A. Yes, sir.

Q On the left hand side? A. Yes, sir. I went over and said, don't put that light off because it is rather dark. I went over and didn't know where the bulb was located and I got up on a chair and struck a match and found the light bulb and put the light on, and I turned around and somebody said, "Fire", and I jumped up and tried to put it out, and John came from behind the bar to help me. The fire started so fast we couldn't do anything. I hollered,"there is an exit over here", and I tried to pull down the curtains.

Q What curtains? A. On the ceiling.

Q Draped along the ceiling? A. Yes, sir.

Q Were the leaves on the palm tree on fire?

A Yes, sir, I think so, I saw the whole corner ablaze.

Q Is it connected to the basement and straighten the building?

A Yes, sir.

Q Now when you're over there, explain to the jurors

A Yes, sir. I went down to the basement and the light

Q on the left hand side?

A Yes, sir. I went down the stairs

Q and it was dark. I turned the light on. I could see

A a little bit from where the door leaded down the stairs

Q and there was a door to the right hand side of the

A right. I walked over and found the light switch and

Q turned the light on. As I walked down the stairs

A I saw a little -- I saw a door to the left. I

Q opened the door to the room to the left.

A Yes, sir.

Q The lightest corner was the southwest corner.

A Yes, sir.

Q Was there any other lights on in the basement?

A Yes, sir. I went over and saw the light switch

Q and it was turned on. I turned it off. I

A walked back up the stairs and I saw the whole corner

Q where the lamps on the back side of the building

A Yes, sir.

Q Anything along the ceiling?

A Yes, sir.

Q Anything around the ceiling?

A Yes, sir. I didn't see the whole corner lighted.

Q Was the room filled? A. Packed, yes, sir.

Q The leaves on the palm tree caught fire?

A Yes, sir, and it caught the ceiling. It came very fast.

Q Then what happened, did the fire spread?

A It came very fast, it was like a gas/fire. I tried to put it out the flames shot at me, at my head, and I let some people out I went out that exit.

Q In the kitchen?

A Yes, sir, It was full of smoke and I led some people to the street, and I was going out the other window and the smoke was thick and I put my hand through the window for air.

Q Where was the window? A. Along the stairway.

Q Who helped you from the time the fire started to get the people out?

A The only help I got was from John Bradley.

Q How did he help you?

A He rushed from behind the bar and tried to put the fire out and we called for some water and somebody gave him a glass of water.

Q When you got up to tighten the bulb and you got down, did somebody call your attention to the fire there?

A Yes, sir.

Q And it spread very rapidly? A. Everywhere.

Q Then you tried to put the fire out? A. Yes, sir.

Q With the help of John Bradley? A. Yes, sir.

Q And you started out through the kitchen? A. Yes, sir.

Q Was there only one bulb there?

A I only saw one.

Q Near the ceiling? A. Close to the ceiling.

Q Just one bulb that you recall, one near the ceiling?

A Yes, sir, just one.

Q You just turned the bulb on? A. Yes, sir.

Q Did you light a match? A. Yes, sir.

Q Why did you light the match?

A I wasn't sure about the location of the bulb.

Q You lit the match in an effort to find the bulb?

A Yes, sir.

Q Then when you turned the bulb on, what did you do with the match?

A I shook it and stepped on it.I was told not to light any matches.

Q You didn't drop the match? A. I stepped on it.

Q Where? A. On the floor.

Q You held the match until you got down on the floor and then stepped on it?

A Yes, sir.

Q Did you use a stepladder to reach the bulb?

A I used a stool.

Q Do you think that match caught fire to the tree?

A It probably did.

Q Any drapes around there?

A Along the wall and ceiling.

Q But they weren't close around the palm tree? A. No, sir.

Q How tall is the palm tree, does it reach from the floor to the ceiling?

A Yes, sir, it does. The leaves almost hit the ceiling.

Q After you got out, what did you do?

A I was looking for my friend.

Q Who is your friend? A. Joe Grasfaglia, 182 Washington Street, Dorchester.

Q What does he do? A. Bar boy.

Q Any paints or varnish around there?

A Not to my knowledge.

Q What time did you go home? A. About four thirty.

Q Then what?

A I went to sleep and I got up and went over and saw Joe's folks and they told me he didn't report home. I went down the hospital and the Massachusetts General and afterwards I went to headquarters.

Q About what time was that? A. About one-thirty.

Q Why did you go there?

A I went to find out if there was any reports.

Q On Berkeley Street? A. Yes, sir.

Q Did they have any reports?

A The police officer took my story and my name, and my mother's name and address, and after that the Captain took me into an office and I told him the story.

Q While you were talking to the Police Captain, did he ask you some questions or did you decide to tell him?

A He asked me some questions, and I told him the story.

Q Did you talk to anyone at the fire?

A I talked to one fireman. He asked me my name and address.

Q Would you recognize the man if you saw him?

A I think so.

Q Is that him? (Pointing to Mr. Cohen of the Fire Prevention)

A I think it was him.

Q You saw a fireman and talked to him, do you remember what you said to him?

A He asked me where the fire started, and I told him the corner was all ablaze.

Q What did he say? A. He took my name and address.

Q Do you go to school? A. Yes, sir.

Q Where? A. Roxbury Memorial High School.

Q What year? A. Senior.

Q Is your father and mother alive?

A Yes, sir.

Q Your mother is sick? A. Yes, sir, she is.

Q Have you ever been sick at all?

A No, sir, I just had an operation.

Q Not lately? A. No, sir.

Q Is this the first job you ever had?

A I had quite a few jobs.

Q You use this job to fill in after school?

A I took this job to help out at home.

Q You work evenings?

A Just on week-ends. I take a college course at school.

Q What were your hours?

A I went in at four and clean glasses and trays, and get through about one fifteen or one thirty.

Q Did you apply at the Cocoanut Grove for the job?

A My friend, Joe Grasfaglia works there, and he asked me if I wanted to work there and I said, "Yes".

Q Does he go to the Roxbury Memorial High School?

A Yes, sir.

Q Friday and Saturday evenings? A. Yes, sir.

Q Anything else you would like to tell us, or do you think you have said everything you remember?

A That is everything.

Q You think the fire started in the palm tree where the light was?

A Yes, sir.

Q It spread very rapidly all through the melody lounge?

A Yes, sir.

Q And you went out the back? A. Yes, sir.

Q There is a fellow named "Marko" in the kitchen, do you know his last name?

Are you ready to work hard and I really' mean;

Willing to work hard and be cooperative?

A. Yes' sir.

Good for you to do the worthy homework with schools

Yes' sir.

Friends and neighbors encourage \ A. Yes' sir.

Very good. Are you willing to call on' on to do some quiting for

people only essentially for themselves?

Just in everything.

You think the street in the back yard where the light was

Yes' sir.

Is strong well respight of church and neighborhood?

Yes' sir.

Can you make one the packs A. Yes' sir.

Yes' sir.

Your mother to study A. Yes' sir' one is.

Have you ever read sick as life?

I' trying' for interesting work books' and be asked as if I

Working to work hard and I really' more;

Good for to do to the worthy homework with schools

Yes' sir.

Friends and neighbors encourage \ A. Yes' sir.

Very good. Are you willing' to call on' on to do some quiting for

people only essentially for themselves?

Just in everything.

You think the street in the back yard where the light was

I know quite a lot of LIT in other schools

Yes' sir.

I know quite for to help out at home.

Your work encouraging?

Just on week-ends' I take a college course in school.

Have new high school

I'm not in two or three times and groups' are not concern

about one library to one religion.

Do you vote at the consult group for the job?

Yes' sir.

Your mother to study A. Yes' sir' one is.

Have you ever read sick as life?

No' sir' I just had an operation.

Your job? A. No' sir.

Is this the strap job you have had?

I have quite a lot job.

Yes' sir.

A I don't know, I just know them by their first names.

Q When you turned the bulb, did it light up? A. Yes, sir.

Q Did all the lights go out at that time, when the bulb was turned off?

A No, sir.

Q You tightened the bulb and it went on? A. Yes, sir.

Q All the lights didn't go out? A. No, sir.

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I don't know. I just know that by that time Jesse

When you turned the bulb, did it light up? A. Yes, sir.

Did all the lights go out at that time, when the bulb was

turned off?

A. No, sir.

Q. You finished the bulb and it went on? A. Yes, sir.

Q. All the lights didn't go out? A. No, sir.

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Station Four
Warren Avenue, Boston, Mass.
Monday, November 30, 1942

The following statement in connection with the fire and loss of life at the Cocoanut Grove on Saturday evening, November 28, 1942, were made to Captain John F. McCarthy in the presence of Albert Kreponitsky, Stenographer.

Statement of Ivah Leffler.

Q (By Captain McCarthy) What is your name?

A Ivah Leffler.

Q Where do you reside? A. 1040 Hertel Avenue, Buffalo, New York.

Q How old are you? A. Twenty-two.

Q Are you married? A. No.

Q Do you attend school? A. No. I work at Bell Aircraft.

Q And when did you come to Boston? A. I took the 11:00 o'clock train Thursday night, and got here at 10:30 Friday morning.

Q Now, coming down to Saturday, November 28, 1942, did you visit the Cocoanut Grove?

A Yes, I went down there in company with Katherine Collins and Ensign John Edwards. Katherine Collins died in the fire and John Edwards is alive, but burned quite badly and is at the Chelsea Naval Hospital.

Q What is the home address of Katherine Collins?

A 417 East Main Street, Batavia, New York. She did live at 1040 Hertel Avenue, Buffalo, with me.

Q Who is her nearest relative? A. Her mother, Mrs. Harriet Collins, same address at Batavia, New York.

Q And Ensign Edwards, what is his home address? A. He is from Michigan.

Q What unit is he attached to in Massachusetts?

Station Four
Warren Avenue, Boston, Mass.
Monday, November 30, 1942

The following statement in connection with the fire and loss of life at the Cocoanut Grove on Saturday evening, November 28, 1942, were made to Captain John F. McCarthy in the presence of Albert Kreyenhagen, Stenographer.

Statement of Ivan Leffler.

Q (By Captain McCarthy) What is your name?

A Ivan Leffler.

Q Where do you reside? A. 1040 Mortal Avenue, Buffalo, New York

Q How old are you? A. Twenty-two.

Q Are you married? A. No.

Q Do you attend school? A. No. I work at Bell Aircraft.

Q And when did you come to Boston? A. I took the 11:00 o'clock train Thursday night, and got here at 10:30 Friday morning.

Q Now, coming down to Saturday, November 28, 1942, did you visit the Cocoanut Grove?

A Yes, I went down there in company with Katherine Collins and Marion John Edwards. Katherine Collins died in the fire and John Edwards is alive, but burned quite badly and is at the Chelsea Naval Hospital.

Q What is the home address of Katherine Collins?

A 417 East Main Street, Batavia, New York. She did live at 1040 Mortal Avenue, Buffalo, with me.

Q Who is her nearest relative? A. Her mother, Mrs. Hartlet Collins, same address at Batavia, New York.

Q And Marion Edwards, what is his home address? A. He is from Michigan.

Q What unit is he attached to in Massachusetts?

A I don't know, he is over at M.I.T.

Q Now, you, in company with Miss Collins and Ensign Edwards went to the Cocoanut Grove on Saturday, November 28th. What time did you arrive?

A Around 10:00 o'clock, about 15 minutes before the fire started.

Q Where were you seated? A. We were standing, and went downstairs to the Melody Bar.

Q Were you seated at a table? A. We were standing. It was very packed and we were at the Oval Bar.

Q And you say all three of you were standing together? A. Yes. All three of us.

Q What happened. As to the fire, I mean? A. I noticed the fire before quite a few people did, because I had my face turned toward where the fire had started. And I saw a boy standing at a table there and I don't know what he was doing. All of a sudden, I saw this flame. Somebody yelled, "put water on it" and nobody did. And I shouted to Jack, "let's go" and I made a wild dash.

Q This boy was an employee of the Cocoanut Grove? A. He looks as if he worked there.

Q What kind of wearing apparel did he have on? A. Red apparel.

Q When you first observed this young man, where was he?

A He was standing on a table.

Q When you say on a table, would that be a chair? A. It might be. A chair or a table.

Q Did you observe what he was doing? A. Really, I did not look at him very closely.

Q Did you see him screw a bulb into a socket? A. No. I knew

A I don't know. He is over at M.I.T.

Q Now, you, in company with Miss Collins and Inspector Sullivan

went to the Commissioner's office on Saturday, November 18th. Just

after did you arrive?

A Around 10:00 o'clock, upon it minutes before the time started.

Q Were you asked to see a certain document which was pe-

ceived by the Commissioner?

A Yes.

Q Who did you see in the room?

A Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Sullivan and myself.

Q Who else was there?

A Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Sullivan and myself.

Q Did you see him across a table into a booklet?

A. No. I mean

at him very closely.

Q Did you observe what he was doing?

A. Really, I did not look

at him very closely.

Q Did you observe what he was doing?

A. Yes.

Q When you put on a table, would that be a copy?

A. It might

be. A copy of a table.

Q When you put on a table, would that be a copy?

A. Yes.

Q When you first observed this young man, where was he?

A He was sprawling on a table.

Q What kind of meeting chairs do you find around?

A. Red upholstered.

Q When you first observed this young man, where was he?

A He was sprawling on a table.

Q When you put on a table, would that be a copy?

A. It might

be. A copy of a table.

Q Did you observe what he was doing?

A. Really, I did not look

at him very closely.

Q Did you see him across a table into a booklet?

A. No. I mean

I mean a white sheet.

Q Have you ever seen an employee of the Commissioner throw

as it be written upon?

A. He looks

Q Have you ever seen an employee of the Commissioner throw

as it be written upon?

A. No.

Q Where were you seated?

A. We were seated, and went down-

stairs to the Commissioner's office.

Q Where were you seated?

A. We were seated, and went down-

stairs to the Commissioner's office.

Q Now, you, in company with Miss Collins and Inspector Sullivan

went to the Commissioner's office on Saturday, November 18th. Just

after did you arrive?

A Around 10:00 o'clock, upon it minutes before the time started.

Q Were you asked to see a certain document which was pe-

ceived by the Commissioner?

A Yes.

Q Did you see him across a table into a booklet?

A. No. I mean

at him very closely.

Q Did you observe what he was doing?

A. Really, I did not look

at him very closely.

Q When you put on a table, would that be a copy?

A. It might

be. A copy of a table.

Q When you put on a table, would that be a copy?

A. Yes.

Q When you put all papers on top of you were apparently reading

they looked and as were at the top part.

Q Were you seated at a table?

A. We were standing. It was

apparently reading.

Q Where were you seated?

A. We were standing, and went down-

stairs to the Commissioner's office.

Q Where were you seated?

A. We were standing, and went down-

stairs to the Commissioner's office.

Q Now, you, in company with Miss Collins and Inspector Sullivan

went to the Commissioner's office on Saturday, November 18th. Just

after did you arrive?

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ceived by the Commissioner?

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Q Did you see him across a table into a booklet?

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at him very closely.

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at him very closely.

Q Did you see him across a table into a booklet?

A. No. I mean

I mean a white sheet.

Q Have you ever seen an employee of the Commissioner throw

as it be written upon?

A. He looks

Q Have you ever seen an employee of the Commissioner throw

as it be written upon?

A. No.

Q Where were you seated?

A. We were standing, and went down-

stairs to the Commissioner's office.

Q Where were you seated?

A. We were standing, and went down-

stairs to the Commissioner's office.

he was doing something. I don't know what.

Q Did you observe him striking a match? A. No.

Q Did you see any light at any time? A. I did not.

Q Did you see any fire at any time? A. When I was up there. No.

Q Did you observe him get down from the chair? A. I did not observe anything after the fire.

Q How long was he up on the chair? A. Just a couple of seconds.

Q Was he in the act of getting on the chair? A. He was up there when I saw him.

Q How far were you from him? A. I don't know. About ten feet, or a little bit more. I just don't remember.

Q Did you see him going from the floor onto the chair? A. No, he was up there.

Q Can you tell me now, Miss Leffler, what he was doing when he got up on that chair?

A I do not remember what he was doing because I was talking with the Ensign at the same time, and the flames started up at that point, and I could not say. The only thing is that he was standing on the chair when I was looking over. I saw flames ahd someone yelled, "put some water on it." He was up on the chair when the flames started because someone said, "throw water on it."

Q Did you observe flames before he got on the chair? A. No.

Q It was while he was on the chair? A. Yes.

Q What did you observe burning? A. I don't know.

Q Did you observe a palm tree burning? A. It caught very fast, and I would say the palm tree was burning.

Q Then you observed the decorations on the ceiling?

Q Did you operate lights behind the curtains on the ceiling?

he was doing something. I don't know what.

Q Did you observe him strike a match? A. No.

Q Did you see any light or any flame? A. I did not.

Q Did you see any type of any flame? A. When I was up there.

Q Did you see any fire or any flame? A. No.

Q Did you operate him very close from the floor? A. I did not

operate anything after the fire.

Q How long was he up on the curtain? A. Just a couple of seconds

up on the curtain? A. No, he was up there

Q Was he in the act of setting on the curtain? A. No

there when I saw him.

Q Did you operate lights behind the curtain? A. No.

Q Did you see him going from the floor onto the curtain? A. No.

or a little bit more. I just don't remember.

Q How far were you from him? A. I don't know. About ten feet

Q Did you see him going from the floor onto the curtain? A. No.

he was up there.

Q Can you tell us now, sir, tell, what he was doing when he

Rot up on that curtain?

A I do not remember what he was doing because I was looking with

the smoke at the same time, and the flames started up at that

point, and I could not say. The only thing is that he was

standing on the chair when I was looking over. I was flames

and someone yelled, "but some water on it." He was up on the

chair when the flames started because someone said, "throw

water on it."

Q Did you operate lights behind the curtain? A. No.

Q How long was he up on the curtain? A. Just a couple of seconds

he was up

Q Was he in the act of setting on the curtain? A. No

there when I saw him.

Q How far were you from him? A. I don't know. About ten feet

or a little bit more. I just don't remember.

Q Did you see him going from the floor onto the curtain? A. No.

he was up there.

Q Did you see him strike a match? A. No.

Q Did you operate him strike a match? A. I did not.

Q Did you see any light or any flame? A. I did not.

Q Did you see any type of any flame? A. When I was up there.

Q Did you see any fire or any flame? A. No.

Q Did you operate him very close from the curtain? A. I did not

operate anything after the fire.

Q How long was he up on the curtain? A. Just a couple of seconds

he was up

Q Was he in the act of setting on the curtain? A. No

there when I saw him.

Q How far were you from him? A. I don't know. About ten feet

or a little bit more. I just don't remember.

Q Did you see him going from the floor onto the curtain? A. No.

he was up there.

Q Can you tell us now, sir, tell, what he was doing when he

Rot up on that curtain?

A I do not remember what he was doing because I was looking with

the smoke at the same time, and the flames started up at that

point, and I could not say. The only thing is that he was

standing on the chair when I was looking over. I was flames

and someone yelled, "but some water on it." He was up on the

chair when the flames started because someone said, "throw

water on it."

Q Did you operate him very close from the curtain? A. I did not

No.

Q Did you see any fire or any flame? A. When I was up there.

A Yes, everything, the whole ceiling was in a mass of flames.

Q Did you observe him get down from that chair? A. I don't know.

Q Did you see a light in his hand? A. No.

Q Did he say anything? A. I don't know. Everyone started to shout, "put water on it."

Q Did you know why this young man went up onto that chair?

A I had no idea.

Q Could you tell me how long he was on that chair? A. I did not see when he got up there.

Q How long did you observe him on the chair. A. A couple of seconds.

Q Did you observe whether or not he attempted to extinguish the fire?

A Everybody just stood there. I said to Ensign Edwards, "come on, let's get out of here."

Q When you heard that yell where were you? A. He was still on the chair. I saw him, and when I left he was still there.

Q What was he doing the last time you saw him? A. Looking at the fire.

Q What was in that corner. A palm tree or more than one?

A I don't recall. I guess there was a lot of leaves.

Q Do you know what caused that palm tree and decorations to become ignited?

A I don't know.

Q Did anyone make any statement in your presence? A. I don't know.

Q In that Melody Lounge, did you observe any blowers to circulate the air?

the wall?

Q In that letter Thomas, did you ever speak with Thomas to clarify what exactly was meant by the statement "some know."

Q Did anyone make any statements to you at Thomas's house?

A I don't recall.

Q Did you operate with the understanding that Thomas had become violent?

A I don't know.

Q Do you know what caused that being the sort of statements to become violent?

A I don't recall. I guess there was a lot of tension.

Q What was in that letter? A. Being free on some kind of bond to appear.

Q Then you saw a man with a gun? A. Yes, I saw him.

Q Then you heard that they were very little. A. He saw only an old man and two women and they did not be expected to extinguish the fire.

Q Did you see a light in his house? A. No.

Q Did you operate with Sgt Gomez from that point? A. I don't know.

Q Did you see a light in his house? A. No.

Q Did he say anything? A. I don't know. Everyone started to shout, "but water on it."

Q Did you know why this house had been put onto that point?

A I had no idea.

Q Did you see a man with a gun in the house? A. I did not.

Q Could you tell me how long he was on that point? A. Not very long.

Q Did you operate him as you got to the point?

A Yes, everything, the whole building was in a mass of flames.

A. I did not feel any. It was stuffy.

Q How was the illumination. A. No lighting. There was a light in the middle of the bar. A man and girl exchanged places, and we walked downstairs. We got down and I said, "my heavens, how dark it is here." "That's all right," he (Ensign Edwards) said, and we just stayed there.

Q Did your escort Ensign Edwards or Miss Collins tell you while standing there that they observed the striking of a match?

A No, I don't think they even saw him. No one seemed to be too alarmed about it. They just stood there. I said, "come on, let's go."

Q Do you know what caused that fire? A. I don't know what caused that fire. I have no idea.

Q Did you hear anyone say what caused the fire? A. No.

Q Could you identify that young man? A. No.

Q How old was he? A. His back was toward me when he was up there.

Q Did he face you at any time? A. I could not note him particularly. He was standing sideways facing the Melody Lounge because the fire was spreading that way.

Q Did you see his face at any time? A. I could not tell you what he looked like, at all.

Q Can you describe him? A. I could hardly see him. I saw a boy on the table. His back was toward me around the palm tree.

Q Was he a guest or employee? A. He looked as if he was an employee. I thought he had on a red jacket.

Q Will you tell me now, what did he do when he got on the chair?

A He had his two arms up on the chair and doing something in around the palm tree.

Q How old was he? A. His back was towards me when he was up there.

Q Did he face you at any time? A. I could not note his peculiarity. He was standing sideways facing the melody lounge because the life was approaching that way.

Q Did you see his face at any time? A. I could not tell you what he looked like, at all.

Q Can you describe him? A. I could partly see him. I was a poor no the people. His back was towards me standing the bejm tree.

Q Was he a group of employees? A. He looked as if he was an employee. I thought he had on a bet a no jacket.

Q Did Lily tell me how, what did he do when he got on the platform? A. He had his two arms up on the capital and holding something standing the bejm tree.

Q Now old was he? A. His back was towards me when he was up there

Q Did he face you at any time? A. I could not note his peculiarity. He was standing sideways facing the melody lounge because the life was approaching that way.

Q Did you see his face at any time? A. I could not tell you what he looked like, at all.

Q Can you describe him? A. I could partly see him. I was a poor no the people. His back was towards me standing the bejm tree.

Q Was he a group of employees? A. He looked as if he was an employee. I thought he had on a bet a no jacket.

Q Did Lily tell me how, what did he do when he got on the platform? A. He had his two arms up on the capital and holding something standing the bejm tree.

Q Did you see anyone else at the time? A. No.

Q Did you hear anyone else after the time? A. No.

Q Could you identify those young ladies? A. No.

Q Did you see the illumination. A. No lights. There was a light

Q How was the illumination. A. No lights. There was a light

A. I did not test any. It was quiet.

Q Were his hands and arms apart or together? A. I thought they were together.

Q Did you find from your observation that he did have his arms around the palm tree? A. No.

Q In other words, were they reaching in the rear of the palm tree for some purpose?

A He might have been, but his back was on me.

Q Did he reach for a bulb with his left hand or make a motion?

A I don't know.

Q Did you hear any person speak to him while he was on the chair?

A The first I heard was, "put water on the fire."

Q And that was while he was on the chair? A. When the fire started, he was still on the chair.

Q Not before he got on the chair? A. No. The fire started while he was on the chair.

Q Did you hear anyone express an opinion as to what started the fire? A. I did not. I was too excited.

Q Have you ever been in the Cocoanut Grove before? A. No, this is the first time I have ever been in Boston.

Q You are satisfied beyond all question of doubt that the fire started while that boy was on the chair? A. In my mind there is no question. He was on the chair.

Q How long was he on the chair? A. Just a couple of seconds. I did not see him get on the chair.

Q Did you see him leave the chair? A. No.

Q The fire started while he was on the chair? A. Yes, as far as I can see.

Q It was while he was on that chair that you observed a fire

Q Were his hands and arms short or forearms? A. I opened
forearms.

Q Did you find from your observation that he did have his arms
around the back rest? A. No.

Q Did you find anyone express an opinion as to what started the
fire? A. I did not. I was too excited.

Q Was you ever been in the Coconut Grove before? A. No, but
is the first time I have ever been in Boston.

Q You are satisfied being all-around to about that the fire
started while that poy was on the chair? A. In my mind there
is no question. He was on the chair.

Q How long was he on the chair? A. Just a couple of seconds.

Q Did you see him leap on the chair.
I did not see him leap on the chair.

Q Did you see him leave the chair? A. No.

Q Did you see anyone else on the chair? A. Yes, as far as
I can see.

Q If was while he was on that chair that you observed a fire
started while he was on the chair.

Q Did you hear anyone express an opinion as to what started the
fire? A. I did not. I was too excited.

Q Was you ever been in the Coconut Grove before? A. No, but
is the first time I have ever been in Boston.

Q You are satisfied being all-around to about that the fire
started while that poy was on the chair? A. In my mind there
is no question. He was on the chair.

Q How long was he on the chair? A. Just a couple of seconds.

Q Did you see him leap on the chair.
I did not see him leap on the chair.

Q Did you see him leave the chair? A. No.

Q Did you hear anyone speak to him while he was on the chair?

A The first I heard was, "Get off on the fire."

Q Did you hear anyone speak to him while he was on the chair?

A I don't know.

Q Did he reach for a pair with his left hand or make a motion?

A He might have been, but his back was on me.

Q Were his hands and arms short or forearms? A. I opened
free for some purpose?

and the palm tree and fixtures burning? A. Yes.

Q Could you give me any description of this young man from your observation. A. I do not remember what he looked like. His back was toward me.

Q Did you observe this young man in the Melody Lounge before he was on the chair?

A No, the lights were terrible.

Q Did you observe this young man go to the bar and then carry drinks to any table?

A No. We had been there just a short time. I did not have time to notice too much.

Q How did you leave the building?

A I don't know which door I went out.

Q Did you receive any injuries?

A I received burns on the left ankle.

Q Is there anything on your mind that you want to tell me now?

A Nothing.

and the bath tree and fixtures furnishing? A. Yes.

Q Could you give me any description of this young man that you saw operating? A. I do not remember what he looked like.

Did you operate this young man in the hotel lounge before he had been sworn by me.

Did you operate this young man on the street?

A No. He was more terrified.

Q Did you operate this young man to do the test and then call drinks to any people?

A No. He had been there just a short time. I did not wait for more coffee.

Q Did you leave the building?

A I got up and left the table.

Q Did you receive any telephone calls?

A I don't know which door I went out.

Q How did you leave the building?

A No.

Q Is there anything on your chest that you want to tell me about?

A Nothing.

The following statements were made in connection with the fire and loss of life at the Cocoanut Grove to Sergeant Banks in the presence of Albert Kreponitsky, Stenographer.

Statement of SALVATORE ACCURSIO

Q (By Sergt. Banks) What is your name? A. Salvatore Accursio.

Q Any middle initial? A. R.

Q And how old are you? A. 21 years.

Q Where do you live? A. 44 Pearl Street, Everett.

Q What is your occupation? A. I am usually a waiter. Last Saturday night I was a captain.

Q You are a waiter by trade? A. Yes. I work at the Cocoanut Grove.

Q How long have you worked there? A. Week and a half.

Q Where did you work previously? A. The Hotel Lucerne.

Q On Saturday night, were you working in the Cocoanut Grove?

A In the new lounge.

Q What time did you report? A. 6:00 o'clock.

Q You were acting as captain of the waiters? A. Yes.

Q And what are your duties? A. When parties come in, I seat them at tables.

Q What time was it that you first discovered the fire? That is, what time did you first notice the fire in the Cocoanut Grove?

A I don't know. About 10:15.

Q Where were you at the time. A. I was talking to a party in front of the door. That is, at the Broadway entrance.

Q Where did you notice the flames coming from?

A I didn't notice any flames. I just heard someone yell, "fire,

Q Where did you work before the fire in the occupant group?

A I don't know. (Point 10:12)

Q Where were you at the time? A. I was returning to a house in

Q front of the house. Does it be the necessary entrance.

Q Where did you work before the fire?

Q I didn't realize was fire. I just heard someone yell, "fire"

Q On Saturday night, were you working in the occupant group?

A In the new louvre.

Q What time did you report? A. 6:00 o'clock.

Q You were called in department to fill the vacancy? A. Yes.

Q Who else was out during fire? A. When Martinez come in, I went

Q from to station.

Q What time was it that you first discovered the fire? Point is.

What time did you first notice the fire in the occupant group?

A I don't know. (Point 10:12)

Q Where were you at the time. A. I was returning to a house in

Q front of the house. Does it be the necessary entrance.

Q Where did you work before the fire?

Q I didn't realize was fire. I just heard someone yell, "fire"

Q Where did you work before the fire? A. The hotel lounge.

Q How long had you worked there? A. Went and a half.

Q Where did you work before? A. Stylewood Dentist

Q Why did you leave Stylewood? A. Pay was too small.

Q Did you ever work in the occupant group? A. Yes. I work in the occupant

group.

Q What is your occupation? A. I am manager - William - Walter. Last

employer, which I was a carpenter.

Q Did you report to fire? A. Yes. I work in the occupant

group.

Q Where do you live? A. In Bonny Brae, Westoff.

Q How long have you been there? A. Since 12 years.

Q Was anybody injured? A. No.

Q (By Coroner, Dunn) What is your name? A. Benjamin Fagundo.

STATEMENT OF STATION AGENTS

The following statements were made in connection with the fire and loss to life in the occupant group to Assistant Chief Engineer, Department.

open the door," I don't know who it was.

Q You say you didn't see any flames at all. Just saw smoke coming? A. Yes.

Q Where was the smoke coming from? A. From the main dining room.

Q And did you notice whether or not the lights went out?

A No, I did not. I was one of the first to go out.

Q Did you open a door? A. The Broadway door. To let people out.

Q How does it open? A. From the inside. Everyone just pushed me out of the door.

Q Did you open any other door? A. That is the only door. There was a door in the coat room but I do not know where it leads to. My duties were in the lounge room.

Q Could you say whether or not the lights went out?

A No, I could not say.

Q Was there anybody else on duty in there with you that night?

A Three or four waiters and the coat room girl.

Q Are they here now? A. No. None of them are here now.

Q Where would you say the smoke appeared to be coming from?

A The main dining room.

Q Was it thick? A. It was very thick.

Q You did not see any flames at all? A. No.

Q You do not know whether or not the lights went out? Would you say they did not go out? A. No. I left the new lounge and they were still on.

Q How many people were in the new lounge room approximately?

A Oh, I would say about 100.

----0----

----0----

Q Did you open a door? A. The backward door. To let people
open the door.", I don't know who it was.

Q You was you didn't see any flames at all. What was smoke
coming? A. Yes.

Q Where was the smoke coming from? A. From the main kitchen
room.

Q Did you notice whether or not the lights went out?

A No, I did not. I was one of the first to go out.

Q Did you open a door? A. The backward door. To let people
out.

Q How does it open? A. From the inside. Everyone just broke
on out to the door.

Q Did you open with either door? A. That is the only door. There
was a door in the back room but I do not know where it leads to.
We guides were in the inside room.

Q Could you see whether or not the lights went out?

A No, I could not see.

Q Now there evidently was no guide in charge of the right?

A There is just one main door and the back room exit.

Q Were there people also in the new house room approximately?

A No. I should say about 100.

Q Now many people were in the new house room approximately?

A Oh, I would say about 100.

Statement of KARL E. HEMENWAY

Q (By Sergt. Banks) What is your name? A. Karl E. Hemenway.

Q And how old are you? A. 39.

Q Where do you live? A. 77 Spencer Street, Dorchester.

Q And what is your occupation? A. Waiter.

Q Where are you employed? A. I was at the Cocoanut Grove.

Q How long were you employed there? A. 14 months.

Q You are employed there as a waiter? A. Yes.

Q In what part of the Cocoanut Grove were you employed?

A In the main dining room. Off the Piedmont Street side.

Q Is there a bar in that dining room? A. A horse-shoe bar.

Q And what time did you go to work that night? A. 4:00 o'clock.

Q What time did you discover there was a fire? A. It must have been 10:15. Time for the second show to go on.

Q What happened? A. I was going down stairs to the kitchen from the main dining room. Half way down the stairs and I I heard a bar boy shout for a fire extinguisher. He grabbed one and another waiter grabbed another one and they went into the Melody Lounge.

Q Where is that? A. In the basement, back of the kitchen under the Piedmont Street entrance. They went in with fire extinguishers. 8 or 10 people rushed out of the door into the kitchen shouting, "fire", going up the stairs into the dining room. So I said, "quiet". At the time I thought it was a small fire. "Do not make too much noise." They turned around and went through the kitchen to the back entrance.

Q Does this lead onto Shawmut Street?

A Yes. I started to go upstairs into the dining room and I saw everyone fighting to get out (into Shawmut Street) and somebody yelled, "you can't get out that way," so I went back into the kitchen thinking I could get out the back way. You go through the back room. I got part way up the stairs and somebody shouted, "the door's locked."

Q What door? A. The service door was locked. It leads into Shawmut Street. So I went back down to the kitchen to see if I could get the fellow with the key. Not thinking it was serious. And then I guess I ran for the dining room again. There was a mob. I went back into the kitchen thinking that I could open the door. There is a fire door between the kitchen and the back entrance. That was closed. The lights were out but the door was closed. So I said, "who closed the door?" and this bus boy said, "think we can make it?" "Well," I said, "we will try." So we pushed the door open and then I could feel the air come in. The back door was open, so I crawled up the stairs.

Q You went up the stairway? A. To the servant's entrance into Shawmut Street.

Q How long a period of time did this take? A. Not more than five or six minutes.

Q And did you see any flames? Not till I got outside and went down Shawmut Street and down Winchester Street.

Q See any smoke? A. The cellar.

Q Where? A. The smoke appeared to be coming from the Melody Room.

Q Did the lights go out? A. The last time I went down the cellar the lights went out.

Q Did the lights go out? A. The last time I went down the cellar the lights were out.

Q Were you alone? A. The house appeared to be deserted except the maids.

Q Did you see anybody? A. No sir.

Q You went up the elevator? A. On the servant's entrance into Gramercy Parlors.

Q How long a period of time did this take? A. Not more than five or six minutes.

Q And did you see any firemen? Not till I got outside and went down Gramercy Parlors and down Lexington Avenue.

Q Was there a hop? A. The ballroom was locked. It looks into Gramercy Parlors. So I went back down to the kitchen to see if I could see the fellows which the men. Not finding it saw anybody around, the door's locked."

Q Just door? A. The service door was locked. It leads into the kitchen (into Gramercy Parlors) and there was everyone lighting to beat one (into Gramercy Parlors) and somebody helped, "you can't beat me out this way." so I went back to find the kitchen finding I could see out the back way. You go to finding the back room. I got half way up the stairs and I did not go up the stairs." So I said, "Come on boys, let us go back." The back door was open, so I climbed up the stairs.

Q You went up the elevator? A. On the servant's entrance into Gramercy Parlors.

Q How long a period of time did this take? A. Not more than six minutes.

Q And did you see any firemen? Not till I got outside and went down Gramercy Parlors and down Lexington Avenue.

Q See any smoke? A. Not outside.

Q Where? A. The smoke appeared to be coming from the height of the room.

Q Did the lights go out? A. The last time I went down the cellar the lights were out.

and this and you said, "Hurry up we can make it." "Hurry!" I said, "Hurry up." "We will try." so we broke the door open and then I could hear the air come in. The back door was open, so I climbed up the stairs.

Q Anything more you can tell us about it? A. No, I don't think so.

Q How many doors are there leading from that place into the various streets? A. Six.

Q Where are they located? A. Three on Shawmut Street. One on Broadway. A revolving door on Piedmont Street. One through the check room next to the revolving door. One down further from the Melody Lounge.

Q Were any of those doors open that night? I.mean after the fire started. A. The door on Shawmut Street was open.

Q That is the rear entrance? A. Yes.

Q Was the door leading out to Broadway open? A. That must have been. That is the main entrance.

Q Were the fire doors open? A. The one downstairs? Yes. Yes, that was open all the time. It was a big heavy door. I never saw it closed. The second time I came down that door was closed. It wasn't locked, just pulled together. I suppose there was people in between that door to go up stairs to the back entrance. Somebody must have closed it.

Q How did you get out of the building? A. Out of the back door, the service entrance.

Q If that door was open down in the cellar, why couldn't you have gone out that way? A. That door does not lead to the street.

Q Where does the fire door lead to? A. The back stairs.

Q And the door was locked at the top of the stairs? A. Yes.

Q Was that door at the top of the stairs open at any time you were there? A. During the day?

Q During the night, that is, during the fire.

A It was open when I came out, but not the first time.

Q The door you described as a fire door down the basement leads to the stairs that lead up to that door?

A Yes.

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(By Sergt Banks) Statement of Leo Givonetti

Q What is your full name? A. Leo Givonetti.

Q Any middle initial? A. S.

Q How old are you? A. 32

Q Where do you live? A. 45 Quincy Street, Medford.

Q What is your occupation? A. Captain and waiter.

Q For whom did you work? A. The establishment.

Q I am talking about the concern for whom you worked.

A The Cocoanut Grove.

Q That is located on Piedmont Street and Broadway? A. Yes.

Q How long have you worked there? A. 7 years.

Q Did you work in the capacity of a waiter? A. I was captain.

Q What were your duties Saturday night? A. Captain.

Q What is that? A. Waiting at people at the door and showing them to a table.

Q At what particular part of the Cocoanut Grove were you working?

A At the main entrance.

Q What time did you report for work? A. 4:00 o'clock.

Q Describe to me just what happened. A. Well, the head waiter was answering the phone. I was standing at the door. It has a cord to keep the crowd from going out. I was talking to a customer who was asking me to get a table. I told him it was

(Witness continued)

Q The door you described as a kind door down the passage leads to the shaft that ran up to that room?

A Yes.

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(Witness Leave)

Examination of Leo Giacometti

Q Where is your left house? A. Leo Giacometti.

Q Where is your left house? A. 8.

Q Was anybody injured? A. No.

Q How old are you? A. 28

Q Where do you live? A. 42 Dunlop Street, Redfern.

Q What is your occupation? A. Carpenter and welder.

Q For whom did you work? A. The Commonwealth.

Q I am talking about the concrete for which you worked.

A The concrete floor.

Q Where is located the fireplace and groomway? A. Yes.

Q How long have you worked there? A. 7 years.

Q Did you work in the capacity of a welder? A. I was apprentice.

Q When were your duties mainly during? A. Carpenter.

Q When is there? A. Welding at heights at the door and groomway from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Q At what particular part of the concrete floor were you working?

A At the main entrance.

Q What time did you report for work? A. 4:00 o'clock.

Q Where did you report for work? A. Well, the head welder

Q Describe to us just what happened. A. Well, the head welder

Q was screwing the bolts. I was standing at the door. It was a

Q point to keep the crowd from going out. I was talking to a

Q boilermaker who was working on the door a few feet away. I did not

impossible. We were all filled up. As I was talking to him, I heard a scream in the lobby. I looked out and saw a fight or a commotion. Many officers and Army men around. I told the head waiter to drop the phone and call the riot squad. He kept on talking and I made a run toward the phone booths located near the lobby. As I started to get into the lobby, I saw flames pouring out of the office and coat room. Flames were rolling out in clouds. We (Frank Balzarini and Givonetti) ran like hell and opened the fire doors. We knocked over tables and got to the doors. We had to lift bars. We dropped them down and were about to push the doors down. We went head first, pushed by the crowd. We ripped out the remaining doors. People were coming out in pretty bad shape. And as I recall, Frank (Balzarini, the head waiter) pushed his way back in there. He lost his life. How, he got in I don't know with the crowds pushing and punching. I tried to get in, but I was pushed into the parking space. I looked around to the front side, that is, the new part of the building and there I found somebody with a pole trying to push down the door. I helped out.

Q What door was that? A. The door leading into the waiter's locker and girl's dressing room from the Shawmut Street side. Then people started coming out and I was outside trying to catch two or three girls. Then I walked around to the front and saw the flames coming through the front entrance. (Broadway). Firemen had arrived and flames were pouring out. I saw many dead bodies.

Q When you refer to these doors that you pushed. Please explain.

impossible. We were all filled up. As I was walking to him, I heard a scream in the lobby. I looked out and saw a fight or a commotion. Many officers and many men around. I told the head waiter to drop the phone and call the riot squad. He kept on talking and I made a run toward the phone booths located near the lobby. As I started to get into the lobby, I saw flames pouring out of the office and over room. Flames were rolling out in clouds. We (Frank Balzarini and Giovanetti) ran like hell and opened the fire doors. We knocked over tables and got to the doors. We had to lift doors. We dropped them down and were about to push the doors down. We went head first, pushed by the crowd. We ripped out the remaining doors. People were coming out in pretty bad shape. And as I recall, Frank (Balzarini, the head waiter) pushed his way back in there. He lost his life. Now, he got in I don't know with the crowds pushing and punching. I tried to get in, but I was pushed into the parking space. I looked around to the front side, that is, the new part of the building and there I found somebody with a pole trying to push down the door. I helped out.

Q What door was that? A. The door leading into the waiter's locker and girl's dressing room from the Sherman Street side. Then people started coming out and I was outside trying to catch two or three girls. Then I walked around to the front and saw the flames coming through the front entrance. (Broadway) Firemen had arrived and flames were pouring out. I saw many dead bodies.

Q When you refer to these doors that you pushed. Please explain.

A These doors are locked by pushing up a bar.

Q Where are they located? A. In the middle of the dining room on the left hand side of the main dining room.

Q Did you succeed in getting those doors open? A. Yes.

Q How many were open there? A. Double doors. Part of the doors were falling apart. We ripped off the rest of the door.

Q I think I understood you to say the flames were coming first from the cloak room? A. Yes.

Q Where? A. Above the Melody Lounge.

Q You go up a flight of stairs? A. Yes. Over the stairs is the cloak room. This is where I first noticed the flames.

Q Now where are these palm trees located? A. Some are all over the house. Some downstairs. Four in the main dining room. They are iron posts.

Q Down in the Melody Room? A. One in each corner of the room.

Q As you go into the Melody Room from the stairs, where is the bar?

A In the center of the room.

Q Did you notice whether or not the lights were out?

A No. Up to the time the lights were still on when I went into the street.

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A. Where are they located? A. In the middle of the sitting room on the left hand side of the main sitting room.

Q. Did you notice whether or not the lights were out?

A. No. My so the time the lights were still on when I went into the office.

Q. Did you notice whether or not the lights were out?

A. In the center of the room.

Q. Is you go into the Melody Room from the entrance where is the pa in the center of the room?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you notice the doors were locked or open?

A. Some doors are locked by breaking up a pad.

Q. Where are they located? A. In the middle of the sitting room on the left hand side of the main sitting room.

Q. Did you notice whether or not the doors were open?

A. Yes.

Q. How many were open then? A. Double doors. Left of the door to the hall.

Q. Did you notice the doors were closed? A. Yes.

Q. Did you notice whether or not the lights were out?

A. Yes. Only to the time the lights were still on when I went into the office.

Q. I think I understood you to say the lights were coming from the ceiling? A. Yes.

Q. From the sitting room? A. Yes.

Q. Where are the lights? A. In the middle of the sitting room.

Q. Do you go up a flight of steps? A. Yes. Down the stairs is a long hall. Right is where it turns to the left.

Q. How many steps? A. Some are all over. Now where is the steps located? A. Some are all over the house. Some domestic. Just in the main sitting room. Just six flow boxes.

Q. Did you notice the Melody Room? A. One in each corner of the room.

Q. Is the Melody Room from the entrance? Where is the pa in the center of the room?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you notice whether or not the lights were out?

A. Yes. Only to the time the lights were still on when I went into the office.

Q. Did you notice whether or not the lights were out?

A. No. Up to the time the lights were still on when I went into the office.

Statement of William Fiorito

Q (By Sergt. Banks) What is your full name?

A William Fiorito.

Q Any middle initial? A. No.

Q And how old are you? A. 31

Q Where do you live? A. 356 Beech Street, Roslindale.

Q Are you married? A. Yes.

Q What is your occupation? A. Waiter.

Q Where do you work? A. In the main dining room of the Cocoanut Grove.

Q How long have you worked there? A. three years.

Q Were you working Saturday night, November 28th? A. Yes.

Q What time did you go to work? A. 6:00 o'clock.

Q What are your duties there? A. Waiting on the tables.

Q Will you describe to the stenographer just what happened as you saw it.

A I was working right at the end of the dining room. The left side. That is, the Shawmut Street side of the main dining room. I was doing nothing as I had finished with my work. I heard somebody scream for help. I saw this Goody Goodell, a singer down in the Melody Lounge, and she told me there was a fire down in the Melody Lounge. So I tried to get back to the dining room. I didn't think it was a big fire. When I opened the door, I saw a lot of people rushing towards that way.

Q Which way? A. Coming from below, in the Melody Lounge. There was no smoke at the time. I figured I could never make it. My intention was to go into the main dining room where there was a door which opens easily. I was afraid

Q (By Mr. Banks) What is your full name?

A WILLIAM MIGLIACCIO.

Q Are you married? A. No.

Q And how old are you? A. 23

Q Where do you live? A. 200 Beach Street, Rockaway.

Q Are you married? A. Yes.

Q What is your occupation? A. Welder.

Q Where do you work? A. In the main diving room of the Navy Yard.

Q Are you working now? A. Yes.

Q Were you working during the time of the explosion? A. Working on the raft.

Q What did you do on that? A. 8:00 o'clock.

Q Where did you go after that? A. Working on the raft.

Q Did you see anything happen to the barge? A. Coming from below, in the welding room, I was working right in the end of the barge when it happened. I was doing nothing as I had finished with my work. I heard a crash. I looked out the window and saw a lot of people running around in the welding room. I didn't think it was a big fire. When I opened the door I saw a lot of people running towards the dock. So I tried to get back to the welding room. I didn't think it was a big fire. When I opened the door, I saw a lot of people running towards that way.

Q Which way? A. Coming from below, in the welding room of the main diving room. They ran to the dock. I figured I could swim ashore. I saw a rope and a boat on the dock and I swam ashore. I saw a tool box and a new welding machine. I saw a tool box e saw welding machine there. I saw

(Fiorito Continued)

I couldn't make it. So I walked into the back room. The door was closed. That is, the service door on the Shawmut Street side. Meanwhile, with another two waiters, Cecchini and Kallawser, we broke the window.

Q Where? A. Right next to the service door on the Shawmut Street side, and got out. There was some planks outside there, and we took them and broke the door. Some people came out of there. Meanwhile another door was opened and people came out.

Q How many doors are there on the Shawmut Street side?

A There is the service door and there is the door that leads out from the main dining room. Then there is another door on the next building which is connected.

Q And they all lead onto Shawmut Street? A. Yes, three doors.

Q And do you know whether or not any one of those doors were open?

A The service door was locked.

Q How about the other two? A. Must have been locked, because we broke it from the outside.

Q How are they opened from the inside? A. With a key. Sometimes they are open and sometimes they are locked.

Q You say you did not see any flames? A. Not until I got out. I saw smoke.

Q Where did the smoke appear to be coming from? A. From the lobby. From the Melody Lounge room coming up into the lobby.

Q Did the lights go out? A. When I came out the lights were still on. They must have come on after I came out.

Q Apparently the fire started in the Melody Lounge.

A So the singer told me. It must have started from there.

(Interior continued)

Q I couldn't make it. So I walked into the next room. The cook
stove was closed. Just is, the relative cool on the Spanish street
side. Meanwhile, with another two members, Jessie Lathrop and Kathryn
Wise closed. Just is, the relative cool on the Spanish street
side. Meanwhile, with another two members, Jessie Lathrop and Kathryn
Wolfin and we place the window.

Q Where? A. Right next to the relative cool on the
Spanish street side, and yes the big stove. There saw some bright objects outside
some people came out. Some people have been looking up the cool.
street, and we took them and place the cool.
out of place. Meanwhile another cool was opened and people
came out.

Q How many cooks are there on the Spanish street side?
Yes, there is the relative cool and there is the cook that leads out
and no cook tender is there is another cool on the
Main street side. Then there is another cool on the
next building which is connected.

Q Who put all land onto Spanish street? A. Yes, place cooks.

Q And you know whether or not you ever to see one of those cooks were opens?
A The relative cool are locked.

Q How about the other cook? A. Must have been locked, because we
place it from the outside.

Q How are they opened from the inside? A. With a key. Some-
times they are open and sometimes they are locked.

Q Can you tell us did you see any lizards? A. Not until I got out.
I saw some.

Q Where did the smoke appear to be coming from? A. From the lodge.
From the relative cook stove on the lodge.

Q Did the lizards go out? A. When I came out the lizards were still
on. They must have come on after I came out.

Q Approximately the time started in the relative lounge.

Q Go the other way.

Statement of HENRY W. BIMNES

Q (By Sergt. Banks) What is your full name.

A Henry W. Bimnes.

Q How old are you? A. 53.

Q Where do you live? A. 55 Warren Avenue, South End.

Q What is your occupation? A. Waiter.

Q Where do you work? A. Cocoanut Grove.

Q How long have you worked there? A. Eight months.

Q You are employed there as a waiter? A. Yes.

Q In what particular part of the Cocoanut Grove did you work?

A In the main dining room. From Piedmont Street all the way to Shawmut Street.

Q And which part of the dining room do you wait on?

A This very night I was in the terrace, a little bit above the main dining room.

Q Where is this terrace situated? Right in the middle of the dining room.

Q What time was it when you first noticed there was something wrong? A. I was just going to buy a check for a customer. I went over to the head waiter's desk. Just then I saw a great big flame come from the stairway.

Q What stairway? A. The stairway from the Melody Lounge leading up to the Main dining room.

Q Then what happened? A. I ran downstairs to the kitchen.

Q Where was that located? A. Right out from the stairs. I shouted, "fire," and went over to the other side with nine girls and two young men and put them in the ice box in the kitchen.

Finally got them out by breaking the bars in the windows.

Q Where was it located? A. In the little ante-room where the musicians change their clothes.

Q And then what did you do? Then I ran back again and got the people from the ice box to safety the same way.

Q Did you notice whether or not the lights went out? A. Everything happened like a flash. There was no more lights. I had a flash light.

Q Did you notice whether or not any doors were open on the Shawmut Street side? A. I could not say.

Q Your duties do not take you down into the Melody Room at all?

A No, very rarely.

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Statement of Frank Accursio

Q (By Sergt. Banks) What is your full name? A. Frank Accursio.

Q Where do you live? A. 44 Pearl Street, Everett.

Q How old are you? A. 25.

Q What is your occupation? A. Waiter.

Q Where do you work? A. At the Cocoanut Grove.

Q How long have your worked there? A. 4 years.

Q What part of the building do you work in? A. In the main dining room.

Q What section of the main dining room do you wait on?

A We alternate. Every night we work in different places.

Q Where did you work Saturday night? A. In the main dining room. On the Shawmut Street side.

Finally got them out by breaking the bars in the windows.

Q Where was it located? A. In the little ante-room where the musicians change their clothes.

Q And then what did you do? Then I ran back again and got the people from the ice box to safety the same way.

Q Did you notice whether or not the lights went out? A. Everything happened like a flash. There was no more lights. I had a flash light.

Q Did you notice whether or not any doors were open on the Sunset Street side? A. I really not say.

Q Your duties do not take you down into the basement at all?

A No, very rarely.

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Statement of Frank Accurzio

Q (By Sergt. Burke) What is your full name? A. Frank Accurzio.

Q Where do you live? A. 44 Pearl Street, Everett.

Q How old are you? A. 25.

Q What is your occupation? A. Waiter.

Q Where do you work? A. At the Cocoanut Grove.

Q How long have your worked there? A. 4 years.

Q What part of the building do you work in? A. In the main dining room.

Q What section of the main dining room do you work on?

A On alternate. Every night we work in different places.

Q Where did you work Saturday night? A. In the main dining room. On the Sunset Street side.

Q What time did you go to work? A. 5:45.

Q What time did you first notice anything happening there?

A Well, I went downstairs for an order about 10:00. As soon as I went down for the order, the bar boy said, "fire." I went upstairs and opened the exit door leading onto Shawmut Street.

Q You opened that door. Did you go out that door?

A Yes. This door opens two ways. It is a double door. All the people clogged it up.

A You got only one part of the door open? A. Yes.

Q Then you went out? A. Yes. I could not get near the other door.

Q From what part of the Melody Room were the flames coming?

A On the kitchen side.

Q How many stairs are there leading from the main dining room down to the Melody Room? A. 18 or 19.

Q Did you notice whether or not the lights went out? A. While I was in there they were still on. About 10 minutes after I got into the street, the place got dark.

Q What time did you go to work? A. 2:45.

Q What time did you start replace equipment?

A Well, I went downstairs for an order about 10:00. As soon as I saw I went upstairs and opened the exit door leading onto Beaumont Street.

Q You opened that door. Did you go out that door?

A Yes. Late good opera two away. It is a double door. All the people crowded it up.

Q You got only one half of the door open? A. Yes.

Q Then you went out? A. Yes. I could not get the other door.

Q What time did you to do work? A. 2:45.

Q Did you notice whether or not the lights went out? A. While I was in there they were still on. About 10 minutes after I got into the street, the place was dark.

Q How many exits are there leading from the main dining room down to the basement? A. 18 or 19.

Q Did you notice whether or not the lights went out? A. While I was in there they were still on. About 10 minutes after I got into the street, the place was dark.

Q Where was the kitchen exit?

A On the kitchen side.

Q Prior after half of the second door were the lights coming?

A Yes. Late good opera two away. It is a double door. All the people crowded it up.

Q You got only one half of the door open? A. Yes.

Q Then you went out? A. Yes. I could not get the other door.

Q How many exits are there leading from the main dining room down to the basement? A. 18 or 19.

Q Did you notice whether or not the lights went out? A. While I was in there they were still on. About 10 minutes after I got into the street, the place was dark.

Station Four
Warren Ave., Boston, Mass.
Monday, November 30, 1942

The following statement in connection with the fire and loss of life at the Cocoanut Grove on Saturday evening, November 28, 1942, were made to Captain John F. McCarthy in the presence of Albert Kreponitsky, Stenographer.

Statement of Patrolman Walter G. Jones

Q (By Captain McCarthy) What is your name? A. Walter G. Jones.

Q How old are you? A. 41 years.

Q Are you a patrolman stationed on Division Four? A. Yes.

Q How long have you been here? A. 9 or 10 years.

Q You are a night officer? A. Yes.

Q Have you a route on this division? A. I am assigned to seven route.

Q Do you take in the Cocoanut Grove area? A. The dividing line is Winchester Street. It is the seven or eight route.

Q On Saturday, November 28, 1942, what time did you report for for duty? A. Roll call at 5:45.

Q You were on what we call the first watch? A. Yes.

Q That would come in at 5:45 and you would get through at 12:45?

A Yes.

Q Now, on the evening of November 28, you were assigned to seven and eight route? A. Yes.

Q Did you have any occasion on that evening, or was your attention called to a fire at the Cocoanut Grove?

A No. I made a duty call at Winchester and Church Streets at 10:15. At the same time, I heard fire engines sounding and I inquired over at the box and found out the location of the fire. I was informed it was at Stuart and Carver Streets, and that I could go right up. I went along Church, Piedmont and Shawmut

The Plaintiff's statement in connection with the title and
lease of this of the Consolidated Gross on September Eleven', nine-
teen hundred and forty-five', was made to Gabriel Lyon K. McCarthy in the
presence of Albert Kirkpatrick', stenographer.

Statement of Examination Continued: Frank Jones

(By Gabriel McCarthy) Read to Your Name? A. Albert C. Jones.

Q How old are You? A. Twenty.

Q Are You a British citizen? A. Yes.

Q You are a right citizen? A. Yes.

Q Have You a home in this Province? A. I am resident in
Ontario.

Q Do You take it the Consolidated Gross Estate? A. The Plaintiff
Line is independent estate. It is the seven to eight tonne.

Q Now, on the evening of November 20', You were arrested to Essex
and eight Tonnes? A. Yes.

Q Did You have any occasion on that evening', to see your signature
called to a line of the Consolidated Gross?

A No. I made a quick call to Minneapolis and Charles Schmidt at
10:10. At the same time', I heard like engines coming and I
thought over at the box and found out the location of the line.
I was interested to see if it was at Sports and Certain Estates', and that I
could go right on. I went along Charles', Freedman and Sullivan
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Q Now', on the evening of November 20', You were arrested to Essex
and eight Tonnes? A. Yes.

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10:10. At the same time', I heard like engines coming and I
thought over at the box and found out the location of the line.
I was interested to see if it was at Sports and Certain Estates', and that I
could go right on. I went along Charles', Freedman and Sullivan

Streets and I saw smoke coming up from what appeared to be the building where the Cocoanut Grove is located. I thought that probably somebody made a mistake and told me the wrong information at the box. But as I went up close to observe it, smoke came out in big volume.

Q Where was the smoke from: A. The Cocoanut Grove.

Q What part of the Cocoanut Grove?

A The central part. I saw a spire of smoke, then it seems there was an explosion on Shawmut Street. Then I knew there was a door on the Shawmut Street side, so I went over towards that door. As I did, people started coming out. I took my flashlight and guided them out, telling them to be calm and to take it easy. There were 30 or 40 of them. Some women started to fall on the sidewalk and got crushed. I then saw that I could not do much, so I went over to the Mayfair. I asked a nickel from the head waiter and called Police Headquarters, Dev. 1212, and I informed them that I needed all the help and ambulances I could get, remembering the fire at East Boston. I knew this place was crowded and we could use all the ambulances. I went back again to the Shawmut Street entrance and helped moving the people around the door and some fireman said, "see if you can get some other firemen to help." As I did so, I saw Captain Buccigross. He informed me to get to a telephone or to a radio car if there was one handy and notify Headquarters to get in touch with the Commissioner and Superintendent, and for them to get to the scene. I went down Broadway and saw a radio car. I told them to notify the Commissioner and Superintendent that they were wanted immediately at the scene of the

Sixteen and I saw smoke coming up from what appeared to be the building where the coconut grove is located. I thought that probably someone made a mistake and left an fire burning. But as I went up close to operate it, intentionally at the box. But as I went up close to operate it, smoke came out in full volume.

Where was the smoke from: . . the coconut grove.

What part of the coconut grove?

The central part. I saw a ribbon of smoke, then it seemed there was an explosion on Shumway street. Then I knew there was a fire on the Shumway street side; so I went over towards it to get in touch with the Commissioner and Superintendent' and was then joined by Captain Buccigrossi. He informed me to get to a telephone or to a radio car. It there was one nearby with instructions to get in touch with the Commissioner and Superintendent' and to get to the scene. I went down Blossom and was met by Lieutenant Bellice Headquarters' Night Tour of the head watch and called Police Headquarters' and explained I could get' remembering the time as near noon. I knew this house was crowded and we could see all the employees and people around the yard and the fire was confined to the Shumway Street entrance and noticed I went back again to the Shumway Street entrance and noticed people standing the good and some firemen said' "see" moving the people around the good and some firemen said, "Is it now safe to go back some other firemen to help." As I did so, I was Captain Buccigrossi. He informed me to get to a telephone or to a radio car. It there was one nearby with instructions and Superintendent' and I got in touch with the Commissioner and Superintendent' and I got in touch with the Commissioner and Superintendent' and I got to get to the scene. I met Chief Blossom and was a good on the Shumway Street side; so I went over towards it and I saw smoke coming up from what appeared to be that properly someone made a mistake and left an fire burning intentionally at the box. But as I went up close to operate it, smoke came out in full volume.

Where was the smoke from: . . the coconut grove.

What part of the coconut grove?

The central part. I saw a ribbon of smoke, then it seemed there was an explosion on Shumway street. Then I knew there was a good on the Shumway Street side; so I went over towards it and I saw smoke coming out. I took my flashlight and walked then out, telling them to be calm and to take it easy. There were 30 or 40 of them. Some moved toward the left to the sidewalk and got cleared. I then saw that I left no the sidewalk and got cleared. I went back to the scene of the fire immediately as the people started to leave.

fire. I then went back and assisted in putting many bodies in cabs and trucks and doing whatever I could possibly do.

Q Did you have occasion to sound an alarm that night? A. No.

Q Did you have any request to sound an alarm? A. No.

Q Where were you? A. Was making a call at Winchester and Church Streets at 10:15.

Q Do you know who sounded the alarm? A. No.

Q Did you learn from any source who sounded the alarm? A. No.

Q You are positive you did not sound an alarm? A. Positive. The only alarm I gave was when I went into the Mayfair and called Devonshire 1212, Police Headquarters, to notify them to send any help and ambulances they could get.

Q Did you learn from any source what was the cause of the fire?

A Only what I have read in the newspapers.

Q Did you receive any information at the Cocoanut Grove that would help the Police Department in giving the names of any material witnesses? A. No.

Q Have you anything further to add?

A No, I don't think so.

Station Four, Warren Avenue
December 1, 1942
Albert Kreponitsky, Stenographe:

Statement of Sergeant Timothy F. Collins

Q (By Captain McCarthy) What is your full name?

A Timothy F. Collins.

Q You are a night sergeant on Division Four? A. Yes.

Q While performing your duties as night sergeant, you visit licensed premises where food and liquor is served and where there is entertainment? A. Yes.

Q Have you ever entered the Cocoanut Grove at any time on the Piedmont Street or Broadway entrance? A. Yes. On the Piedmont Street entrance.

Q For what purpose did you enter the premises? A. To see that they lived up to the terms of their licenses and report violations of the law, and also to inspect the premises.

Q Have you ever observed any violations of the law? A. No, sir.

Q Were you instructed by your commanding officers to make inspections? A. Yes. Of all licensed premises.

Q Were you to submit reports of your inspections to your commanding officers? A. In case of violations, Yes.

Q If there were no violations, you did not submit a report?

A No.

Q How often did you make an inspection of the Cocoanut Grove?

A Probably every 8 or 9 days. No particular day was specified to make inspections.

Q You could not designate any set time to make these inspections?

A No, I could not. Because of the number of licensed premises on this division, there are over four hundred, it would be impossible to devote time exclusively to the Cocoanut Grove and

Albert Klebonitzky, Stenographer
December 1, 1955

Testimony of Reinhardt Timothy J. Collins

Q (By Captain McCarthy) What is your full name?

A. Timothy J. Collins.

Q You are a sergeant on patrolman duty, are you not?

A. Yes.

Q Sergeant Timothy J. Collins, is it true that you made an inspection of the coconut grove on the night of the 29th of November, 1954?

A. Yes.

Q Have you ever operated any slot machine in the Canal Zone?

A. No, sir.

Q Have you ever instructed any other commissioned officers to make inspections?

A. Yes. Of all licensed premises.

Q Were you ever ordered by your commanding officer to make inspections of your own accord?

A. Yes.

Q Have you ever submitted a report of your inspections to your commanding officer?

A. No.

Q If there were no violations, you did not submit a report?

A. No.

Q How often did you make an inspection of the coconut grove?

A. Approximately every 5 or 6 days. No particular day was specified to make inspections.

Q You could not determine any day ahead to make those inspections?

A. No, I could not.

Q Because of the number of licensed premises in Balboa and Ancon, there are over 1000 hundred, it would be impossible to govern that exclusively to the coconut grove and on this circumstance, there are over 1000 hundred, it would be impossible to govern that exclusively to the coconut grove and

carry out all other duties.

Q Have you made inspections on your morning watch tour of duty?

A Yes. When I was alone on the morning watch, that is, with no other sergeant with me, I would go to the corner of Essex and Washington Streets and remain there until 2:00 o'clock. After 2:00 o'clock in addition to the Cocoanut Grove, I would make inspections of the other night clubs. If they were open, I would inspect them. If they were closed, there would be no inspection.

Q The closing hour of the Cocoanut Grove is 3:00 o'clock A.M.?

A Yes.

Q On Saturdays at midnight? A. Yes.

Q And then on Sundays the entertainment is from 7:00 o'clock to 11:00 o'clock on a license issued by the Mayor's Office?

A Yes, for the entertainment.

Q For how long a period of time have you been making these inspections? A. I came here on November 5, 1941, and I have been making these inspections over the course of a year.

Q Have you had any occasion to notice any infraction of the rules?

A No, sir.

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Statement of Alfred Gallerani

Q (By Captain McCarthy) What is your name? A. Alfred Gallerani.

Q You are a sergeant attached to Division Four of the Boston Police Department? A. Yes.

Q For how long a period of time have you been a sergeant of police?

A For the past six years.

carry out all other duties.

Q Have you made inspections on your morning watch from 12:00 midnight to 4:00 o'clock on a liquor store?

A Yes. When I am alone on the morning watch, that is, with no other patrolmen assigned to my sector to make inspections.

Q Are you aware that the ordinance states that the liquor store must be closed at 2:00 o'clock A.M.?

A Yes.

Q Do Sergeants at midnight ever make inspections?

A Yes.

Q Now, Officer, you mean that the sergeant at 2:00 o'clock in the morning is responsible for the liquor store?

A Not the sergeant.

Q Not now, sir, I mean you have a sergeant on horseback, Patrolman Tomey, do you not? Do you not have a period of time that you are responsible for the inspections?

A I am responsible for the inspections and I have been making spot inspections every night, sir.

Q Have you had any occasion to notice the interior of the liquor store?

A No, sir.

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Statement of Walter Gallagher

(By Corporation Counsel) Must it be your duty to make a sergeant attached to District Four to the Boston Police Department?

A. Yes.

Q Not now, sir, I mean you have a sergeant on horseback, Patrolman Tomey, do you not? Do you not have a period of time that you are responsible for the inspections?

A. I do.

Q Are you aware that the liquor store must be closed at 2:00 o'clock in the morning?

A. Yes.

Q Do you make an inspection of the liquor store?

A. Yes.

Q Now, Officer, you mean that the sergeant at 2:00 o'clock in the morning is responsible for the liquor store?

A. Yes.

Q Do you make an inspection of the liquor store?

A. Yes.

Q Have you made inspections on your morning watch from 12:00 midnight to 4:00 o'clock?

A. Yes.

Q Are you alone on the morning watch, that is, with no other patrolmen assigned to your sector to make inspections?

A. Yes.

Q Have you had any occasion to notice the interior of the liquor store?

A. No, sir.

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Statement of Walter Gallagher

(By Corporation Counsel) Must it be your duty to make a sergeant attached to District Four to the Boston Police Department?

A. Yes.

Q Not now, sir, I mean you have a sergeant on horseback, Patrolman Tomey, do you not? Do you not have a period of time that you are responsible for the inspections?

A. I do.

Q Are you aware that the liquor store must be closed at 2:00 o'clock in the morning?

A. Yes.

Q Do you make an inspection of the liquor store?

A. Yes.

Q Have you made inspections on your morning watch from 12:00 midnight to 4:00 o'clock?

A. Yes.

Q Are you alone on the morning watch, that is, with no other patrolmen assigned to your sector to make inspections?

A. Yes.

Q Have you had any occasion to notice the interior of the liquor store?

A. No, sir.

Q For how long have you been attached to Division Four?

A Four years.

Q You are a night sergeant? A. Yes.

Q Have you ever had occasion to enter the Cocoanut Grove on Piedmont Street and Broadway? A. Yes.

Q For what purpose? A. For inspection purposes and to find out if there are any violations of the law or the terms of their licenses.

Q Have you ever observed any violations of the law? A. No, sir.

Q Were you instructed by your commanding officers to make inspections of the premises? A. Yes.

Q Were you to submit reports of the inspections to your commanding officers? A. Yes, in case of violations.

Q Have you observed any violations in that period of time?

A No.

Q How often did you make inspections of the premises of the Cocoanut Grove? A. Once every two weeks.

Q There was no fixed day to make these inspections? A. No.

Q You could not regulate any specified time? Different assignments that arise that might prevent you from so doing?

A Yes. Due to various duties, I could not devote a specified time for inspection purposes.

Q You did not have any particular hour of the evening in which you would make these inspections. A. No. I would look into violations as the occasions arise.

Q This might be in either the first tour of duty or the last half?

A Yes.

Q The restrictions on closing hours were 3:00 o'clock A.M., every

Q The restrictions on closing posts were 2:00 o'clock A.M., were they?

A Yes.

Q Have you observed any violations in such manner to the best of your knowledge?

A Yes. One of various quarter, I could not describe a specified time for inspection purposes.

Q You did not make the territorial point to the evening in which you would make these inspections. A. No. I would look into violations as the occasions arise.

Q Have you ever observed any violations of the law, A. No, sir.

Q Have you instructed by your commanding officers to make inspections of the premises? A. Yes.

Q Were you to submit reports of the inspections to your commanding officers? A. Yes, in case of violations.

Q Have you observed any violations in that region of Miami Beach?

A No.

Q The restrictions on closing posts were 2:00 o'clock A.M., were they not?

A Yes.

Q Have you been affected to Diversion Posts?

A Not from June 1st.

Q Not a night patrolman?

A Yes.

Q Have you ever had occasion to enter the document store on Biscayne and Flamingo?

A Yes.

Q Have you ever had occasion to enter the document store on Biscayne and Flamingo?

A Yes.

Q Not under instructions?

A Not inspection purposes and to find out if there are any violations of the law or the rules of Miami-Dade County?

A No. I would look into violations as the occasions arise.

Q Have you observed any violations of the law?

A No, sir.

Q Were you instructed by your commanding officers to make inspections of the premises?

A Yes.

Q Were you to submit reports of the inspections to your commanding officers?

A Yes, in case of violations.

Q Have you observed any violations in that region of Miami Beach?

A No.

Q Have you ever had occasion to enter the document store on Biscayne and Flamingo?

A Yes.

day except Saturdays when the time was set at 12:00 midnight, and Sundays from 7:00 o'clock P.M. to 11:00 o'clock P.M.

Q Yes, but on Sundays, only private parties were run.

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Statement of JOHN J. CROSSEN

Q (By Captain McCarthy) What is your name? A. John J. Crossen.

Q You are a sergeant attached to Division Four? A. Yes.

Q For how long a period of time have you been attached to Division Four? A. Over three years.

Q For that period of time your duties were that of night sergeant?

A Yes.

Q Have you ever had occasion to enter the Cocoanut Grove located at 17 Piedmont Street? A. Yes.

Q For what purpose did you enter these premises?

A For the purpose of inspecting the premises.

Q Of what did your inspection consist? A. Observation of conditions existing on the premises.

Q Did you ever observe any violations of the law? A. No.

Q Were you instructed by your commanding officers to make inspections of the premises. A. Yes.

Q And were you to submit reports to your commanding officers of your inspections? A. Yes, if violations were found.

Q Were there any violations? A. No.

Q How often did you make inspections of the premises of the Cocoanut Grove? A. Approximately at a period of eight or ten days.

Q Did you have any set time to go in there? A. No.

Q For what purpose did you enter these premises?

A For the purpose of inspecting the premises.

Q Did your inspection consist A. Operation of
of what did your inspection consist? A. Operation of
conditions existing on the premises.

Q Did you ever operate any switches of the lamp? A. No.

Q Did you ever see any switches of this type on the premises? A. No.

Q Were you instructed by your commanding officers to make in-
spections of the premises. A. Yes.

Q And were you to submit reports to your commanding officers
of your inspections? A. Yes, if violations were found.

Q Were there any violations? A. No.

Q Now often did you make inspections of the premises of the
coconut grove? A. Approximately at a period of eight or
nine months.

Q Did you ever see any of the officers of the coconut grove
there?

A. No.

Examinations by Lieut. J. Osborne

(By defense counsel) Have in your hand; A. Lieut J. Thomas.

Q You are a personal aide to Division Commander? A. Yes.

Q For how long a period of time have you been attached to Divi-
sion Headquarters? A. Since first Marine Brigade.

Q Here you ever had occasion to enter the coconut grove located
at El Fredonia Barrio? A. Yes.

Q Have you ever had occasion to enter the coconut grove located
at El Fredonia Barrio? A. Yes.

Q Do you remember when the first time was that you entered
the coconut grove?

A. Approximately in a period of eight or
nine months.

Q Did you ever see any of the officers of the coconut grove
there?

A. No.

(Adjournment: noon recess)

(Resumed: 13:00 o'clock P.M. to 14:00 o'clock P.M.)

Q Yes, but on Sunday, only private parties were too.

Q Your time of entering would be regulated by your duties in the Division? A. Yes.

Q It would be on your first tour of duty in going out on the morning watch when you would have occasion to enter the Cocoanut Grove? A. Yes.

Q At what time in the morning would you enter? A. Always after 2:00 o'clock A.M.

Q The closing hour restrictions on the Cocoanut were 3:00 o'clock A.M., daily except Saturdays when they were supposed to close at midnight, and on Sundays from 7:00 P.M. to 11:00 P.M. on a license issued by the Mayor's Office? A. Yes.

Q On the morning watch, how frequent would your inspections be?

A Once in two weeks. Other duties keep me busy.

Q Have you ever received complaints about the conduct of the business at the Cocoanut Grove? A. No.

Q That runs for a period of about three years? A. I have been here for three and one half years, last April.

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Statement of WILLIAM H. OWEN

Q (By Captain McCarthy) What is your name? A. William H. Owen.

Q You are a sergeant attached to Division Four? A. Yes.

Q For how long a period of time have you been attached to this division? A. Going on over four years.

Q You are a night sergeant? A. Yes.

Q Have you ever entered the Cocoanut Grove on Piedmont Street

Q Have you ever entered the Coconut Grove on Broadway Street

Q you are a night watchman? A. Yes.

Q (By Commissioner Scott) What is your name? A. William H. Owen.

Q you are a watchman attached to Division Four? A. Yes.

Q For how long a period of time have you been attached to this division? A. Going on over four years.

Q Employed?

Q Have you ever been inside the Coconut Grove on Broadway Street business at the Coconut Grove? A. No.

Q That was for a period of about three years? A. I have been here for three and one half years, just AFTER.

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Statement of WILLIAM H. OWEN:

Q Your time of entering would be regulated by your duties in the Division? A. Yes.

Q If would be on your time of duty to duty at the Coconut Grove on the morning watch when you would have occasion to enter the Coconut Grove? A. Yes.

Q At what time in the morning would you enter? A. Always after 5:00 o'clock A.M.

Q The closing hour restrictions on the Coconut Grove were 2:00 o'clock A.M., daily except Saturdays when they were supposed to close at 3 o'clock in the morning, and on Sundays from 7:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. or a midnight, and on Sundays from 7:00 P.M. to 11:00 P.M.

Q Licenses issued by the Mayor's office? A. Yes.

Q On the morning watch, how frequently would your inspections be made in two weeks. Often during week on part.

Q Have you ever received complaints about the conduct of the

and Broadway? A. Yes.

Q For what purpose did you enter these premises? A. Inspection purposes.

Q An inspection of the premises? A. Yes.

Q Of what did your inspection there consist? A. To see that there were no violations of the law, or violations of the terms of their licenses.

Q Have you ever observed any violations of the law? A. No.

Q Were you instructed by your commanding officers to make inspections? A. Yes.

Q Were you to submit reports of violations? A. Yes.

Q Have you ever found any violations of the law? A. No.

Q How frequently would you make these inspections? A. They would vary. I would go down to the night clubs at my first opportunity.

Q Was there any set time to make inspections? A. No set time.

Q What period of time would lapse between inspections? A. About a week.

Q That would be on your first tour of duty. The first watch from 5:45 P.M. to 12:45 A.M.? A. Yes.

Q Coming to the morning tour of duty, about what time would you make your inspection? A. I would try to make it about 2:00 o'clock A.M., if possible.

Q Did you ever have any occasion to observe violations of the law during your tour of inspection? A. No, I did not.

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(William J. Shanahan, Stenographer.)

Station 4, December 1, 1942.

Statement of JAMES WELANSKY.

Q (By Captain McCarthy) What is your full name?

A James Welansky.

Q And where do you live, Mr. Welansky? A. 869 West Roxbury Parkway.

Q How old are you? A. Forty-six.

Q What is your occupation? A. Restaurant.

Q Where is your place of business? A. Manager of the Circle Lounge and Grill, and I operate the Egleston Square Roller Skating Rink.

Q Are you connected with the Cocoanut Grove? A. No,sir.

Q Are you a member of the corporation? A. No,sir.

Q Are you employed in any capacity at the Cocoanut Grove?

A No,sir.

Q Were you there at the Cocoanut Grove Saturday evening, November 28, 1942? A. Yes,sir.

Q What time did you report there last Saturday?

A I come in there about half past six in the evening.

Q And were you there during all the time until the fire started?

A No. I come in about half past six and left for the hospital after seven, and came back at 9:00 P.M.

Q You went to the Mass. General Hospital to visit your brother, Barnet Welansky? A. Yes.

Q After visiting the hospital did you then return to the Cocoanut Grove? A. Yes, about nine o'clock.

Q Did you remain there until the fire? A. Yes,sir.

Q When did you first learn there was a fire there? A. I was in the new lounge and some one came up, whether it was an entertainer, a waiter, a man or woman, I don't know, and told me there was a fire. I don't even know if they shouted it at me

or not. I was talking to Captain Buccigross at the time. He told me he was on a tour of inspection.

Q Can you fix the time on that? A. I can't.

Q You were talking to him at the time that some one told you there was a fire? A. Yes.

Q Did they tell you where the fire was? A. They didn't have to, from the direction they came from. I started in that direction.

Q What direction did you observe the fire coming from?

A Well, I don't know exactly if I saw a fire or not. I started for it and I was met by a rush of people, and I think I saw an image of a fire on the left hand side and I started to holler, "Please walk, walk, please."

Q And that was coming from the direction of the Melody Lounge?

A No, I was in the new lounge and the fire was coming from the direction of the main room. The new lounge connects with the main room.

Q Did you have occasion to visit the Melody Lounge that night?

A Earlier in the evening, yes, sir.

Q Were you there acting in the absence of your brother Barnet, who is ill? A. Yes, sir.

Q You were taking over the responsibility of directing the forces of the Cocoanut Grove that night? A. Yes, to look out for his interests.

Q Did you have occasion at any time during the evening to go down to the Melody Lounge? A. The early part of the evening when I came in I went down to the Melody Lounge, walked around the bar, walked into the kitchen and came out.

Q Can you describe to me the Melody Lounge, how many palms are in there and the material on the ceiling?

A I wouldn't know about that because it was put in there about three years ago, but I was there this afternoon with some doctors

who wanted me to help them.

Q Could youdescribe to me the premises in the Melody Lounge, how big it was? A. There is a circular bar.

Q Approximately how many tables? A. Circular bar and with stools all the way around the circular bar, and lounges up against the wall with tables in front of the lounges and chairs.

Q Did you have any knowledge of this Stanley Tomaszewski?

A No. I have nothing to do with the hiring.

Q Did you know there was such a young man working there?

A I didn't, no,sir.

Q You didn't do any of the hiring of the help?

A No,sir. You see, the captain would hire the waiters and busboys, and Mr. Goldfine would hire the bartenders, and the chef would hire the kitchen help and the dishwashers.

Q How frequently would you have an occasion to go to the Cocoanut Grove? Did you have any particular time? A. No particular time. I was covering in my brother's absence to look out for his interests for the couple of weeks he has been out.

Q Previous to that your brother Barnet took the forces over and did not require your presence? A. That's right, sir.

Q When this information came to you there was a fire just where were you at that time? A. In the new lounge.

Q Who was with you at that time? A. At that time I was talking to Captain Buccigross. He was there on a tour of inspection, and I took my cue from him. He started to holler, "Walk easy, walk," and waving his arms, and he got lost, engulfed, and I didn't see him again, pinioned and pushed and pulled. I don't know whether I was pulled or pushed or shoved.

Q When you exclaimed, "Walk," you called out that a number of times? A. Yes,sir.

Q What did you do after that? A. Well, I found myself pushed

out and I run up towards Piedmont Street hollering for fire engines, and there was a policeman there and I started to holler to him and I recognized then that Captain Buccigross was giving the instructions, and I run down Piedmont Street and I saw a mass of smoke, and bewildered, I ran back to the front of Broadway and when I got there the glass blocks were blown out and there was a man with the flames allaround him, and there was a fireman right there and I was right behind them. I don't know how I got away from there. Somebody said they pulled me away from there.

Q You went out Piedmont Street first? A. Yes, and I ran back to Broadway next, and I knew afterwards I was on Shawmut Street trying to help them take the people out.

Q You assisted removing people out through the entrance on Shawmut Street? A. Yes,sir.

Q Did you receive any injuries? A. No,sir.

Q Do you know anything about the decorations? A. I wouldn't know. I could tell you what I observed. I wouldn't know about the material. I had nothing to do with the ordering of it.

Q Can you give me your observations with reference to the interior decorations? A. Well, the lounge was carpeted and had a sound proof ceiling, and on one wall was a leatherette, impregnated with nail heads, and on the other wall was a wooden decoration.

Q Were there any air fans, air ventilators? A. Yes,sir, a very powerful air ventilator that was located in the room right above the new lounge, not the Melody Lounge.

Q Do you know from your own knowledge whether there was any of those circulating fans or drafts down at the Melody Lounge?

A I know there are fans down there, I don't know whether they are.

Q Do you know whether they were in operation that night?

A I don't know. They must have been in operation.

Q Do you know whether there was any fans to keep the air cirulating down at the Melody Lounge? A. I assume so, but I don't know for a certainty. They have them in every room.

Q Did you know whether or not the palm trees and the decorations on the ceiling were fireproof? A. I assume so. I believe that they were.

Q Did you recognize anybody down in the Melody Lounge on your visits that night? A. No. I only made one visit that night.

Q Can you fix the time on that? A. About seven o'clock or a little earlier because I know I was in the kitchen.

Q Now upstairs in your main lounge and up through there can you describe to me just how the walls were, if there was any palms and decorations? A. In the main dining room, in the main lobby, there was no decorations on the ceiling.

Q This fire, according to reports, was supposed to have spread through the building with great rapidity and force; have you any opinion what would cause that? A. No, I haven't.

Q Did or do you think the fire would have been intensified by the air circulating fans? A. I think considerably. I don't know how anything could spread so fast.

Q Do you know whether or not the decorations, palm trees, ceiling and other decorations in the Cocoanut Grove were fireproof?

A Yes, I assume they were.

Q At various times have you seen officers from this department making inspections of the Cocoanut Grove? A. I have seen the sergeants on different occasions, and Iseen Captain Buccigross on this particular night.

Q Have you any opinion as to how the fire started?

A Nothing, none, sir.

Q Have you any facts which will help the police?

A I will be glad to help in every way possible.

Q Have you talked with any person who was present in the Melody Lounge when this fire started? A. No, I haven't.

Q And there are two entrances to the Cocoanut Grove, one on Broadway and one on Piedmont Street? A. Yes,sir.

Q And the entrance from Shawmut Street was an entrance for the kitchen help? A. There was an entrance for kitchen help and taking in delivery or orders, and there is an exit door there too.

Q This was a basement with one story building off the street?

A Yes,sir.

Q There was no two stories to it? A. On the front part of the building there is another story.

Q What was that used for upstairs? A. The new lounge,in one room was where they had these fans, smoke removers, etc. I don't know what that contract read but I know they had big fans up there.

Q And the new lounge, how long had that been in operation?

A I think it would be two weeks today it opened.

Q Have you any knowledge of the cost of that? A. No,sir, none whatever.

Q That would be a matter that your brother would be familiar with?

A Yes,sir.

Q This is a Massachusetts Corporation? A. Yes,sir.

Q Do you know who the officers of the corporation are?

A I would say Barnet Welansky, President and Treasure, Katherine Welch, Clerk, and Janet Welansky, Director or something.

Q Janet would be Barnet's wife? A. Sister.

Q Do you know how long it has been incorporated?

A Not exactly.

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30 Garden Street,
Boston, Mass.,
December 1, 1942.

STATEMENT

of

JOYCE R. SPECTOR:

The following statement was made to Captain John F. McCarthy, in the presence of Harold Kraus, Stenographer.

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Statement of JOYCE R. SPECTOR:

Q (By Captain McCarthy) What is your full name?

A Joyce Rosalind Spector.

Q How old are you? A. 18.

Q You reside at 30 Garden Street, Suite 2? A. Yes, sir.

Q Were you employed at the Cocoanut Grove on Piedmont Street?

A I go to Fay's Secretarial School.

Q Did you visit the Cocoanut Grove on Saturday evening, November 28th? A. Yes, sir.

Q And did you go there with some other person or persons?

A Justin Morgan.

Q Where does he live? A. 36 Highland Avenue, Cambridge.

Q What is his occupation?

A He had been working at the Watertown Arsenal but he left to enlist in the Army.

Q What time did you and Mr. Morgan arrive at the Cocoanut Grove?

A About quarter of ten.

Q Where were you located in the Cocoanut Grove?

A Where the fire started, in the Melody Lounge.

Q In what part of the Melody Lounge, Miss Spector, were you?

A Right beneath the fire.

[illegible]

Q Were you seated at a table or were you standing?

A Sitting at a table.

Q Who was at that table, you and Mr. Morgan?

A Yes, and there were other people in the corner at a table.

Q Did you recognize any other people you knew?

A Just a lot of drunks.

Q Did you have any conversation with any of the help there?

A No, sir.

Q When did you first observe the fire?

A I saw it. He came over with a match to put in the bulb that one of the fresh drunks had put out. He wanted just to turn the bulb on again. If you know the Melody Lounge, it is very dark and he lit a match in order to distinguish where the bulb was and the air was so dry-----

Q Did you observe anyone take a bulb out, or loosen the bulb?

A Yes, sir.

Q Who was it who did that, if you know?

A One of the men. I don't know him. He just turned it.

Q When he turned the bulb, did the light extinguish?

A Yes, sir.

Q And then when you observed him take that bulb out and unscrew it and put the light out, then next what did he do?

A He just laughed.

Q And he went back to his chair?

A He was seated there. He just had to reach up.

Q What was his condition as to sobriety?

A He was drunk.

Q Did he stagger over to where the bulb was located?

A The way the place is situated, there is a palm tree in the corner and he was directly beneath that palm tree, and I was beside him.

Q Did he explain any motive or reason as to why he unscrewed that bulb? A. Drunks never have any motive.

Q Did he make any remark?

A He said it was too light, he wanted darkness.

Q Did he say that? A. Yes, sir.

Q Did you know the man that did that?

A No, I never would know him.

Q Could you describe him to me? A. No, sir.

Q Did anyone say anything to him about the bulb?

A I told him to put on the light again.

Q What did he say to you? A. He didn't answer.

Q Did anyone else speak to him? A. No, sir.

Q Then when the light went out, what happened?

A The waiter came over with a match and he said the boss was looking and he had to put on the light.

Q The waiter, did you recognize him?

A No, that place is so dark you wouldn't know your own sister.

Q Can you tell me how long after this man had gone up-----

A About a minute.

Q And the waiter said, "The manager----

A He just came over and he said, "The boss is looking. I've got to put on the light".

Q What did he do?

A He came over to the corner and reached over above the man's

head and turned the bulb on again and the light was on and he was still holding the match.

Q Miss Spector, did he light the match before the bulb was illuminated? A. Yes, sir.

Q Did you see him take the match out of his pocket?

A I don't remember.

Q When did you first see the match?

A Just when he held it up. He must have scratched it on the table and held it up in the air.

Q Did you see him scratch the match? A. No, sir.

Q Was it one of those wooden matches or one that comes out of a cardboard box? A. I think it was a wooden match.

Q What hand did he hold the match in? A. The left.

Q Did you observe him screwing the bulb in?

A Yes, sir.

Q In which hand did he hold the bulb? A. His right hand.

Q Was he standing on a chair at that time?

A I don't remember.

Q How far is this bulb from the floor, can you estimate that?

A It is quite high up. He may have been on a chair because it is near the ceiling, although the ceiling is very low.

Q It seemed as though the palm tree was near this bulb?

A The bulb was on the palm tree. The socket and everything was on the palm tree.

Q When you saw him light that match, did you see him scratch that match before it was illuminated?

A I didn't see him. All I seen was him holding the match up. I think it was one of those wooden matches.

Q When he got up there, what did he light the match for, Miss Spector?

A He couldn't see where the bulb was.

Q What did he do when he got up there?

A Nothing. He just screwed the bulb in and held the match up so that he could see.

Q What did you see him do with the match?

A I saw the palm tree catch fire.

Q When he was up there how were his hands extended, close together like that or apart?

A A little apart.

Q How much apart would you say? A. A little apart.

Q When he lit the match, do you know what happened then?

A I kept watching him very closely because we were amused at the whole situation and we watched him and the bulb was in already and everybody breathed a sigh of relief and then we saw it, Justin and I saw the palm tree immediately catch fire.

Q Did the palm tree catch fire after the light was on?

A Yes, sir.

Q And when the palm tree caught fire, what caused that to catch fire?

A It must have been the match, but even if the match had been held quite a distance away it still could have caught fire from the spark and just the dryness of the air.

Q Did you see the light of the match ignite the palm tree?

A Yes, sir.

Q When the match ignited the palm tree was this waiter still up at the bulb and palm tree?

A I don't know. I jumped up then.

Q Did you observe him get down from that position up there?

A After the match was struck the place caught on fire and I didn't observe anything.

Q You saw the palm tree ignited and then when the palm tree burned did it burn something else?

A It immediately started a fire all around the room, up on the ceiling and down on the ground.

Q Did you observe any person or persons attempting to extinguish the fire? A. My boy friend.

Q What did he do?

A He tried to beat out the flames.

Q Did anyone assist him? A. A few fellows.

Q Do you know who it was that attempted to extinguish the fire?

A All I could see was him.

Q Can you remember any other men who attempted to extinguish the fire? A. It wasn't any of the drunks.

Q How many men did you see, Miss Spector, who were attempting to extinguish this fire?

A I guess it was mostly the soldiers and sailors who were trying to help him.

Q Did you notice the bartender, one John Bradley, come from behind the bar and attempt to put the fire out?

A No, sir.

Q Did the young man who you describe as the waiter who had illuminated the match, did he attempt to put the fire out?

A From the paper he said he was so frightened he ran away.

Q Did you see him attempt to extinguish the fire?

A I didn't see anyone else except my boy friend.

Q Did you see anyone assisting your boy friend, Miss Spector, in attempting to extinguish that fire?

A I think so.

Q How many others? A. About three or four, not many.

Q How many persons would you say were in that place?

A It was so crowded that if you wanted to walk around that bar, you couldn't.

Q Did you observe any fire extinguishers, or anything?

A There was one upstairs because I saw a man running upstairs after me to get one single sprinkler because he said that was all there was in the place.

Q Did you know any other person in there other than Mr. Morgan?

A We came alone.

Q Will you describe this man who got up and lit the match?

A He was dressed like a bus-boy, dressed with a white jacket and pants.

Q Can you tell me approximately how old he was?

A I didn't see his face at all. He seemed to be about five feet six or seven inches tall.

Q Did he appear young to you?

A He appeared quite thin and small.

Q Would you know him again if you saw him? A. No, sir.

Q Did any person assist him in getting up there at this bulb?

A I think those men there probably tried to hinder him from getting up there. They were laughing and joking.

Q How many were in that party? A. About six.

Q Were they all men? A. There were two men and two women and they had had quite a bit to drink.

Q How long would you say he was up there at this bulb?

A Just about a second.

Q How far from the floor would you say that bulb was?

A If the room was about as big as that door there (indicating door about six feet high), then the light must have been where that hinge is (indicating upper hinge).

Q The young man couldn't reach that bulb by standing on the floor. Was it necessary for him to get on a chair?

A It must have been.

Q Did you see a chair, a chromium chair? A. No, sir.

Q Did he say anything, or did anyone in that group of two ladies and gentlemen say anything to him when he was screwing the bulb in? A. No, sir.

Q At what time would you say this happened?

A It must have been about quarter past ten.

Q When this palm tree became ignited by the match, the palm tree then-----

A It went around the ceiling.

Q Do you know what the material was on the ceiling?

A Paper.

Q Can you fix the time?

A I should say this happened between quarter past and half past ten. I went upstairs to get my coat and I said, "I will meet you in the lobby. There is no use staying here". I went in the ladies room and said to those in there, "There is a little fire downstairs". I told the colored woman up there about the little fire and told her it would be better to get near an exit.

Q When you went upstairs, that was the last time you saw Mr. Morgan. How long did you remain in the ladies room?

A I should say it wasn't even a minute. As soon as I said that I heard the trampling of feet and I saw smoke coming from the door immediately and the door burst open from the corridor and then it was total blackness. Then it was black and the lights went out and there was thick black smoke and I didn't know of any door except the revolving door.

Q Then you got out on the street?

A No, I didn't get out that door.

Q Which door did you get out?

A I let myself be pushed because I thought some people would know some door somewhere and I must have been pushed across the entire length of the floor and someone knocked me down towards the middle of the floor and I was stuck there and I felt those flames licking at me and I crawled under the tables on my hands and knees and all I can remember is people stepping on me, on my head and back and I came to some sort of a smoke filled place where there was a million bodies and somebody pulled me out by the head.

Q Do you know how you came out of that building, whether you were carried out or whether you walked out?

A I got to the exit myself and somebody pulled me out by the head.

Q What exit was that, Miss Spector?

A It must have been on Shawmut Street. It was directly across the dance floor.

Q When you got out, you say you got as far as the door and you

"Have you ever been on a boat?" I asked Tom Kap as we sat on the porch and Tom
sipped tonic.

"I've never been on a boat," he said slowly, shaking his head.

"Do you know what it is?"

"Boat."

"I hope to have really exciting and interesting things to do on the
water including and on weekends like multiple sail;

"Do you know what some of your friends' hobbies are
and accomplish things on the water?"

"I'm a member of the Bitter Lake Yacht Club & lightning racing
sailboats on the" on the Jersey shore and I'm come to some sort
sailing on the ocean and know and I can handle a boat in rough
weather and I know signals in the dark I understand rules and
formulas and angles of the circle and I can tie all the knots and I
know how to dock and I know the sailing and boating terms and I
also sailing knowledge of the school and therefore to sailing club
some other good personality and I also have been Junior College
Sailing Champion and I have also been Junior Varsity Sailing
Captain and Sailing Instructor.

"Do you know what I mean?"

"Yes."

"Have you had any experience?"

"Yes, I and have sailed the Lightning class."

"Where were and the Lightning class sailing? Was it a sport,
an event or was sailing simulated." "Yes it was sailing and the
the Jersey Intercollegiate and the Jersey Yacht Club and Sailing
I helped the instructor to teach and I was Junior Sailing Instructor
I actually was in sailing and a sport." "No, no, no I said sailing
college." "Do you (?) know concepts in the Jersey Shore?"

"Yes, I know concepts in the Jersey Shore."

were assisted out? A. Yes, sir.

Q Then what happened when you got on the outside?

A They wanted to take me to the hospital. I don't know who it was and I told them to use the stretchers for the people who were unconscious.

Q Were you unconscious?

A I was conscious every minute of the time.

Q When you came out, where were you taken to, Miss Spector?

A I wasn't taken any place. I was allowed to remain there. When I was able to sit up, I sat up and two fellows came along and saw me and took off their coats and put them on top of me. They must be kind people. I stood there for an hour and a quarter and I saw everything.

Q Then when you did go, how did you get home?

A They walked me to the corner and got me into a cab and took me home. One's name I think is Willie. I don't know whether they are old or young.

Q Miss Spector, do you believe that the lighting of this match and the igniting of the palm tree as you say occurred caused this fire?

A Yes, sir.

Q Who is attending you, Miss Spector, as your physician?

A Doctor Bernard Adler, 761 Broadway, Somerville.

Q Has Doctor Adler given you a diagnosis of your injuries?

A Second degree burns of the right hand and my shoulders, my legs; just little blisters on my face and of course, my hair was all singed.

Q Did you go to a hospital?

A I knew the hospitals would be crowded enough without me.

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Statement of ROSE M. GNECCO

Q (By Captain McCarthy) What is your full name? A. Rose M. Gnecco.

Q Where do you reside? A. 29 Main Street, Somerville.

Q What is your telephone number? A. Somerset 1343.

Q Is your dwelling a single house or an apartment? A. It is a three family house. I live on the third floor.

Q What is your occupation? A. Bookkeeper at the Cocoanut Grove.

Q By whom are you employed? A. Mr. Welanski.

Q What is Mr. Welanski's first name? A. Barnet.

Q In what capacity are you employed? A. I order the food and take care of the books.

Q How long have you been so employed? A. About 10 years. I worked there before Mr. Welanski came there.

Q What were your hours there? A. From 9:30 to 6:30.

Q Did you have occasion to work evenings? A. No.

Q Coming to Saturday, November 28, 1942, what time did you report for work? About 9:00 o'clock in the morning.

Q At what time did you cease your employment on Saturday, November 28, 1942? A. I left there about 7:30 or 7:45.

Q Did you return later? A. No.

Q Your hours on Saturdays are the same as other week days?

A Yes.

Q Your duties there consisted of bookkeeping, accounting, making up the payrolls, keeping accounts of the bills, and recording profits of the Cocoanut Grove? A. Yes.

Q It was strictly a bookkeeping and clerical job? A. Yes.

Statement of ROSE M. CHECCO

(Mr Cabrera interrupts) What is your full name? A. Rose M. Checco.

Q. Where do you reside? A. 55 Main Street, Somerville.

Q. What is your telephone number? A. Somerset 1249.

Q. What is your occupation? A. It is a private house or an apartment.

Q. Is your husband a single person or an apartment? A. I live on the entire third floor.

Q. What is your occupation? A. Housekeeper at the Concord Store.

Q. How long have you been so employed? A. About 10 years.

Q. Where prior to MR. Melanson came there.

Q. Have you made your hours? A. 9:30 to 6:30.

Q. Did you have occasion to work evenings? A. No.

Q. Did you ever consider to work Sunday, May 22, 1949, after time did you report for work? About 9:00 o'clock in the morning.

Q. At what time did you cease your employment on Saturday, December 22, 1949? A. I left there about 7:30 or 7:45.

Q. Did you return later? A. No.

Q. Your hours on Saturday are the same as other week days?

A. Yes.

Q. Your duties there consisted of bookkeeping, accounting, making out the payroll, keeping accounts of the bills, and receiving profits to the concern there? A. Yes.

Q. If was artificial a bookkeeper was distinct job? A. Yes.

Q. How long have you been so employed? A. About 10 years. I worked there prior MR. Melanson came there.

Q. Have more your hours there? A. From 8:30 to 6:30.

Q. Did you ever consider to work evenings? A. No.

Q. Consider to Saturday, November 22, 1949, after time did you report for work? About 9:00 o'clock in the morning.

Q. At what time did you cease your employment on Saturday, December 22, 1949? A. I left there about 7:30 or 7:45.

Q. Did you return later? A. No.

Q. Your hours on Saturday are the same as other week days?

A. Yes.

Q. Your duties there consisted of bookkeeping, accounting, making out the payroll, keeping accounts of the bills, and receiving profits to the concern there? A. Yes.

Q. If was artificial a bookkeeper was distinct job? A. Yes.

(Rose M. Gnecco, Cont.)

Q As to the fire which occurred on Saturday night, you were not present? A. No.

Q Is there any information or facts concerning the fire which you can furnish? A. No.

Q There is nothing to your knowledge which would aid the Police Department in obtaining additional facts concerning this fire?

A Just what I have heard and read in the newspapers.

Q Where was your office located? A. Just to the left of the revolving door, as you enter.

Q What entrance? A. On Piedmont Street.

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(Mrs. M. Gaggos' case)

Q As to the fire which occurred on Saturday night, you were not present? A. No.

Q Is there any information or there concerning the fire which you can furnish? A. No.

Q There is nothing to your knowledge which would aid the police department in obtaining additional facts concerning this fire?

A Just what I have heard and read in the newspapers.

Q Where was your office located? A. Just to the left of the elevator door, as you enter.

Q Under our contract? A. On Pleasant street.

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Station Four, Warren Ave.
December 2, 1942
Albert S. Kreponitsky, Sten.

Statement of JEANETTE L. LANZONI

Q (By Captain McCarthy) What is your full name?

A Mrs. Jeanette L. Lanzoni.

Q Where do you reside? A. 12 Claremont Street, Somerville.

Q How old are you? A. 20 years.

Q Were you employed at the Cocoanut Grove? A. Yes.

Q Were you working there on Saturday evening, November 28, 1942?

A Yes.

Q In what capacity were you employed? A. As cashier.

Q What were your hours? A. 6:00 to 1:00.

Q That is 6:00 o'clock P.M. to 1:00 o'clock A.M.? A. Yes.

Q How long have you been so employed? A. Two weeks.

Q Where was your location on the night of November 28, 1942?

A The Melody Lounge.

Q Will you tell me the names of the persons who were employed with you at that time? A. John Bradley, bartender; Paul Mitchell, bartender and Stanley Tomaszewski, bar boy. There was also Emilio Sirocco, bartender.

Q What time did you report for work on Saturday? A. I got in at 6:00 o'clock P.M.

Q Your duties were as cashier in the Melody Lounge? A. Yes.

Q Stanley Tomaszewski was employed as a bus boy? A. Yes.

Q Did you see him get on a chair to screw in a bulb? A. Yes.

Q Where was that bulb located? A. In the left hand corner.

Q Was that bulb near a palm tree? A. Yes.

Statement of TERRETTE L. LARSONI

Q (By Captain McCarthy) What is your full name?

A Mrs. Terrette L. Larsoni.

Q Where do you reside? A. 12 Clarement Street, Somerville.

Q How old are you? A. 20 years.

Q Were you employed at the Document Group? A. Yes.

Q Were you working there on Saturday evening, November 28, 1942?

A Yes.

Q In what capacity were you employed? A. As cashier.

Q What were your hours? A. 8:00 to 1:00.

Q That is 8:00 o'clock P.M. to 1:00 o'clock A.M.? A. Yes.

Q How long have you been so employed? A. Two weeks.

Q Where was your location on the night of November 28, 1942?

A The Melody Lounge.

Q Will you tell me the names of the persons who were employed with you at that time? A. John Greeley, bartender; Paul Mitchell, bartender and Stanley Tomasewski, bar boy. There was also Emilio Sirocco, bartender.

Q What time did you report for work on Saturday? A. I got in at 6:00 o'clock P.M.

Q Your duties were as cashier in the Melody Lounge? A. Yes.

Q Stanley Tomasewski was employed as a bus boy? A. Yes.

Q Did you see him get on a chair to screw in a bulb? A. Yes.

Q Where was that bulb located? A. In the left hand corner.

Q Was that bulb near a palm tree? A. Yes.

Q Tell me what you observed him doing? He was requested by someone to put in a bulb? A. Yes, by John Bradley, the bartender.

Q Do you know how it was unscrewed? A. By a guest.

Q In civilian clothes or in uniform? A. I don't know.

Q Was it removed entirely from the socket? A. It was just unloosened.

Q How did you know the bulb was unloosened? A. The bulb was still there.

Q You overheard John Bradley, the bartender, request Stanley Tomaszewski to put it in? A. Yes.

Q How did Bradley know the bulb was unloosened? A. The bulb was not lit.

Q As a result of Bradley requesting Tomaszewski to screw in the bulb, what did Tomaszewski do? A. He ran over to a chair to fix it. Then I saw a flash.

Q Did you see the bulb light up? A. No.

Q What did you see? A. A flash and fire.

Q Describe the flash. A. A puff and I saw the flames.

Q Where did the puff of flame come from? A. The corner.

Q What did you observe first? A. The flash is what I saw first.

Q What was burning when you looked up? A. The palm tree.

Q Did you see Tomaszewski holding a match? A. No.

Q Did you see him make a motion as though striking a match?

A No. All I saw him making was a motion to put it out.

Q You did not see any match struck by Tomaszewski? A. No.

Q Was there any obstruction to your view? A. No.

Q Could Tomaszewski have struck a match and not have been seen by you?

Q Tell me what you observed him doing? He saw Lombardi by someone go into a pulp? A. Yes, by John Bradley, the part-owner.

Q Do you know how it was operated? A. By a lever.

Q In straight strokes or in circles? A. I don't know.

Q Was it removed entirely from the accord? A. It was just unloosened.

Q How did you know the pulp was unloosened? A. The pulp was still there.

Q Did you see Lombardi go into Bradley's and the part-owner Grundy come out? A. Yes.

Q How did Bradley know the pulp was unloosened? A. The pulp was not lit.

Q As a result of Bradley replacing Lombardi do matters in the pulp, what did Lombardi do? A. He ran over to a spark to get a drink.

Q Did you see the pulp light up? A. No.

Q What did you see? A. A flash and fire.

Q Describe the flash. A. A bull and I saw the flames.

Q Where did the bull to flame come from? A. The corner.

Q What did you observe first? A. The flash is what I saw first.

Q What was burning when you looked up? A. The barn floor.

Q Did you see Lombardi holding a match? A. No.

Q Did you see him make a motion as though striking a match?

A. No. All I saw him making was a motion to put it out.

Q You did not see any match struck by Lombardi? A. No.

Q Was there any operation of your vision? A. No.

Q Could Lombardi have struck a match and not have been seen by you?

A He could have.

Q Before he went up on the chair to screw the bulb in, did you observe any flash or fire? A. No.

Q It was while he was up there? A. Yes.

Q How long was he on the chair? A. It all happened so suddenly.

Q Do you know what caused the fire? A. No.

Q Did you speak with Tomaszewski? A. No. Nobody even saw me.

Q Did you observe Tomaszewski get down from the chair? A. No.

Q Did he attempt to put out the fire? A. Yes.

Q Did he attempt to put out the fire while still standing on the chair? A. Yes.

Q Did he get down from the chair to attempt to put the fire out?

A I don't know.

Q Did Tomaszewski leave the Cocoanut Grove first or did you leave first? A. I left first.

Q Did you have any conversation with anybody as to how the fire started? A. I was with Goody Goodell who was singing at the time at the piano. She got hysterical. I said, "don't get hysterical, we'll get out." She pushed me and I fell. I got up and ran through the kitchen.

Q What door did you leave by? A. The Shawmut Street exit.

Q Have you learned since the fire, what caused the blaze?

A No.

Q How far from the palm tree was the bulb? A. It was half-way in between the palm treet. It was very low down.

Q Did you observe any ventilators? A. There was one in the left hand corner near the palm tree.

Q Would that blower work as a force on that palm tree?

A I think it could. I could feel the breeze.

Q Was there more than one blower in that room? A. That's the only one that I know of.

Q Can you give me the names of persons who attempted to extinguish that fire, excepting John Bradley? A. No.

Q Was Bradley alone? A. I think so.

Q Have you any other information that would prove of assistance to the Police Department in determining the cause of the fire?

A No.

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Q would that planet work as a force on that being first?

A I think it could. I could feel the presence.

Q Have there more than one planet in that room? A. There's the only one that I know of.

Q Can you give me the names of persons who attempted to explain

that time, excepting John Bradley? A. No.

Q Have Bradley spoken? A. I think so.

Q Was you ever informed that anything prior to presence of the lights to cause the Police Department in determining the

A No.

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Station Four, Warren Avenue
December 3, 1942
Albert Kreponitsky, Stenographer

Statement of ROBERT A. MAHER

Q (By Captain McCarthy) What is your full name?

A Robert A. Maher.

Q You are a police officer attached to Division Four? A. Yes.

Q Are you a day or night officer? A. Night officer.

Q What is your assignment on Division Four? A. I am assigned to the A. L. Sector Car.

Q Does this take in the premises of the Cocoanut Grove on Piedmont Street and Broadway? A. Yes.

Q With whom are you assigned in the car? A. Patrolman John King.

Q While in the car covering that sector have you ever had occasion to visit the Cocoanut Grove? A. Once.

Q For what purpose? A. We had a radio call to the effect that there was an intoxicated marine on the premises. The manager pointed him out.

Q Did you remove this marine from the premises? A. Yes.

Q Have you ever received any complaints from the management of the place? A. No.

Q Whenever you did have occasion to enter the Cocoanut Grove, did you observe any violations of the terms of their licenses?

A No.

Q For how long a period of time have you been on that sector car?

A Since March 31, 1940.

Q In driving by the premises of the Cocoanut Grove, did you ever observe any evidence of disorderly conduct or any violations?

A No.

Q As far as you could observe, everything was being conducted in an orderly manner? A. Yes.

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Statement of JOHN J. FAHERTY

Q (By Captain McCarthy) What is your full name? A. John J. Faherty.

Q You are a police officer attached to Division Four? A. Yes.

Q You are a night officer? A. Yes.

Q What is your assignment of duty on Division Four? A. I am assigned to the A. L. Sector Car.

Q With whom are you assigned? A. Officer Earl Howland.

Q Does the A. L. Sector Car cover the premises of the Cocoanut Grove on Broadway and Piedmont Street? A. Yes.

Q How long have you been so assigned? A. Seven years.

Q During that period of time, have you ever had occasion to enter the premises of the Cocoanut Grove? A. Yes.

Q For what purpose? A. Reported disturbances.

Q How many times did this occur? A. About four times.

Q What did you do at these times? A. On one occasion we put a man out from the premises, and another time the matter was taken care of by the management. On the other two occasions, there was nothing serious.

Q Have you ever observed violations of the terms of the licenses?

A No.

Q Whenever you had occasion to enter, would you say the management was conducting business according to the terms of their

Q. How long have you been in the employ of the Consolidated Gas Company? A. Seven years.

Q. During that period of time, have you ever had occasion to enter the premises of the Consumers Gas Company? A. Yes.

Q. How many times did this occur? A. About four times.

Q. How many times did this occur? A. On one occasion we had left you to do at these times? A. Yes.

Q. Did you go to the premises, and another time the traffic was a man out from the premises, and another time the traffic was taken care of by the management. On the other two occasions, there were working sections.

Q. Have you ever observed violations of the terms of the franchise? A. No.

Q. Do you not know of any other violations of the franchise? A. No.

Q. Which men are you assigned? A. Officer Earl Bowman.

Q. Does the A. L. Sector cut cover the premises of the consumers Gas Company? A. Yes.

Q. Do you not know of any other violations of the franchise? A. No.

Q. Have you ever observed violations of the franchise? A. I am assigned to the A. L. Sector car.

Q. What is your assignment in duty on Division Road? A. Officer Earl Bowman.

Q. Are you a night officer? A. Yes.

Q. You are a night officer? A. Yes.

Q. You are a bottle officer attached to Division Road? A. Yes.

Q. (By Commissioner McCarthy) What is your full name? A. John J. Lamberty.

Statement of John J. Lamberty

Q. Are you a bottle officer attached to Division Road? A. Yes.

Q. Are you a night officer? A. Yes.

Q. How long have you been on assignment? A. Seven years.

Q. During that period of time, have you ever had occasion to enter the premises of the Consumers Gas Company? A. Yes.

Q. How many times did this occur? A. About four times.

Q. How many times did this occur? A. On one occasion we had left you to do at these times? A. On one occasion we had a man out from the premises, and another time the traffic was taken care of by the management. On the other two occasions, there were working sections.

Q. Have you ever observed violations of the terms of the franchise? A. No.

Q. Do you know of any other violations of the franchise? A. No.

Q. Which men are you assigned? A. Officer Earl Bowman.

Q. Does the A. L. Sector car cover the premises of the consumers Gas Company? A. Yes.

Q. Do you not know of any other violations of the franchise? A. No.

Q. As far as you could operate, everything was being conducted in an orderly manner? A. Yes.

licenses? A. Yes, as far as I could see.

Q Have you ever received any complaints from any source with reference to the conducting of business at the Cocoanut Grove?

A No.

Q When you did have occasion to enter the Cocoanut Grove, did you observe conditions in there with reference to orderliness?

A When we did enter the premises, we, were told where the disturbance was, and we would handle that alone.

Q Have you ever had an occasion to deliver papers from the Licensing Board to the Cocoanut Grove? A. No.

Q Would you say the affairs and business at the Cocoanut Grove were being conducted in a legal and lawful manner? A. As far as I could see, they were all right.

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Statement of JOHN JOSEPH KING

Q (By Captain McCarthy) What is your name? A. John Joseph King.

Q To what division are you attached? A. Division Four.

Q What is your assignment? A. I am a night officer attached to the A. L. Sector Car.

Q With whom are you assigned? A. Officer Robert Maher.

Q With Officer Maher you cover the premises of the Cocoanut Grove on Broadway and Piedmont Street? A. Yes.

Q Have you ever observed any complaints or disturbances on the premises? A. No.

Q Because of the fact that you are subject to calls from the Turret, you observe conditions on the exterior of premises, and as far as the interior of licensed premises is concerned, that is a matter

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Q Have you ever received any compensation from any source with
reference to the conducting of business at the Cocoanut Grove?
A. No.

Q When you did enter the premises on the occasion of the fire
on Thursday, did you have any conversation with any person
regarding the ownership of the premises?
A. No.

Q Have you ever had an occasion to deliver letters from the Pacific
Mae' and we would pounds first alone.

A When we did enter the premises' we were told where the disturbance
occurs conditions in there with reference to orderliness;
Q When you did have occasion to enter the Cocoanut Grove' did you
see any evidence of the conditions at the Cocoanut Grove;
A. No.

Q Have you ever received any compensation from any source with
reference to the conducting of business at the Cocoanut Grove;
A. No.

Q Have you ever received any compensation from any source
for your services in the Cocoanut Grove' and if so what was
the amount?
A. Yes.

Q Have you ever received any compensation from any source
for your services in the Cocoanut Grove' and if so what was
the amount?
A. I am a night office worker employed by
the A. L. Sargent Co.

Q Were you employed by the Cocoanut Grove?
A. Contract worker.

Q With whom are you associated?
A. Patrick Lynn.

Q Do you maintain an office?
A. Yes.

Q (By Commissioner Hodgkin) What is your name?
A. John Joseph Kiley.

KILEY PROBOT UNIT TO statement of JOHN JOSEPH KILEY

Q Mr. Kiley, you are not an attorney?
A. No.

Q Have you been informed that you have a right to be represented by counsel?
A. Yes.

Q Have you been informed that anything you say may be used against you?
A. Yes.

Q Have you been informed that you need not give any testimony which may tend to incriminate you?
A. Yes.

Q Have you been informed that you need not give any testimony which may tend to incriminate you in a criminal manner?
A. Yes.

Q Have you been informed that if you do testify you will be sworn and I could see, that you were all right.

left to the captains and sergeants? A. Yes.

Q In your opinion, and from your observations on the exterior, would you say the business of the Cocoanut Grove was conducted in an orderly fashion? A. Yes.

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Statement of EDWARD H. SHEA

Q (By Captain McCarthy) What is your name? A. Edward H. Shea.

Q To what division are you attached? A. Division Four.

Q To what route are you assigned? A. Seven Route.

Q Does this route cover the Cocoanut Grove? A. The border line of Seven Route is Winchester Street.

Q Sometimes you have occasion to cover both Seven and Eight Routes?

A Yes.

Q On the first watch, your tour of duty is from 5:45 P.M. to 12:30 A.M.? A. Yes.

Q And then the so-called morning watch is from 12:30 A.M. to 7:45 A.M.? A. Yes.

Q On your tour of duty during the first watch, did you ever observe violations or disorderly conduct at the Cocoanut Grove? A. No.

Q Have you ever observed conditions there which would warrant sending in a report to your commanding officers? A. The only occasion I have had to visit the premises was to deliver papers from the Licensing Board.

Q On these occasions, were conditions being run in an orderly manner?

A Yes.

Q Were you ever called in for any violations of the terms of their licenses? A. No.

Q How long have you been on this route?

A For a period of thirteen months.

Q If you had observed a violation, you would make a report thereon to your commanding officers? A. Yes.

Q Have you ever had occasion to make such a report? A. No.

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Statement of WALTER G. JONES

Q (By Captain McCarthy) What is your name? A. Walter G. Jones.

Q You are a police officer attached to Division Four? A. Yes.

Q Are you a night officer? A. Yes.

Q To what route are you assigned? A. Seven Route.

Q Did you ever have occasion to visit the Cocoanut Grove to deliver letters, papers, or notifications from the Licensing Board? A. Yes.

Q On these occasions when you entered the Cocoanut Grove, did you make any observations? A. Yes.

Q Did you observe any violations of the terms of their licenses or of the law? A. No.

Q Have you ever received any complaints while on Seven Route which is adjacent to the Cocoanut Grove? A. No.

Q If you did find any violations, you would submit a report to your commanding officers? A. Yes.

Q Have you ever had occasion to make such a report? A. No.

Q Would you say that the affairs and business of the Cocoanut Grove were being conducted in a lawful and orderly manner? A. Yes.

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(Senator Edward J. Glass, cont.)

Q Not a matter of criminal concern.

Q If you had operated a violation, you would make a report thereon to your commanding officer? A. Yes.

Q Have you ever had occasion to make such a report? A. No.

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Examination by Senator C. Lewis

(By certain documents) What is your name? A. Arthur G. Jones.

Q You are a police officer assigned to Division Land? A. Yes.

Q Was you a right officer? A. Yes.

Q Do you know a certain man by the name of Frank Ponte? A. Frank Ponte.

Q Did you ever have occasion to visit the coconut grove on Kaneohe Bay? A. Yes.

Q Was you present when the witness Ponte was arrested? A. Yes.

Q Did you operate any violation of the terms of the liquor laws? A. No.

Q Have you ever received any complaints which on behalf Ponte which is adjacent to the coconut grove? A. No.

Q If you did find any violations, you would submit a report to your commanding officer? A. Yes.

Q Have you ever had occasion to make such a report? A. No.

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Statement of CHARLES JOSEPH REYNOLDS

Q (By Captain McCarthy) What is your name? A. Charles Joseph Reynolds.

Q Are you a police officer attached to Division Four? A. Yes.

Q For how long have you been attached to Division Four? A. Since March 31, 1940.

Q What is your assignment? A. Eight Route.

Q Does that cover the premises of the Cocoanut Grove? A. Yes.

Q Have you ever entered the Cocoanut Grove at any time? A. No.

Q Have you ever received complaints from any source with reference to the conducting of business at the Cocoanut Grove? A. No.

Q In patrolling your route, did you ever observe any violations of the terms of the law, or of the licenses held by the Cocoanut Grove? A. No.

Q Have you ever had occasion to deliver notifications to the Cocoanut Grove from the Licensing Board? A. No.

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Statement of EARL B. HOWLAND

Q (By Captain McCarthy) What is your name? A. Earl B. Howland.

Q To what division are you attached? A. Division Four.

Q You are a night officer? A. Yes.

Q Do you patrol on foot or in a sector car? A. In a sector car.

Q What is your assignment? A. I am assigned to the A. L. Sector Car with Patrolman John Faherty.

Q Does this take in the Cocoanut Grove on Piedmont Street and Broadway? A. Yes.

Q Have you ever had occasion to enter the Cocoanut Grove? A. Yes. To quell disturbances.

Statement of Capt. A. Hamilton

(Mr Cockburn Macarthy) What is your name? A. Capt A. Hamilton.

Q To which station are you attached? A. Drayton Point.

Q You are a night officer? A. Yes.

Q Do you patrol on foot or in a motor car? A. In a motor car.

Q What is your establishment? A. I am attached to the A. L. Bastor

Cut with Pertoleum joint Lateral.

Q Does this take in the coconut grove on Firedamp Patrol and

Promenade? A. Yes.

Q Have you been the occasion to enter the coconut grove? A. Yes.

to dwell disturbances.

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Statement of Capt. A. Hamilton

(Mr Cockburn Macarthy) What is your name? A. Captain Joseph

Q Are you a police officer attached to Drayton Point? A. Yes.

Q Have you been the occasion to deliver notifications to the

Grove? A. No.

Q Have you been the occasion to enter the coconut grove?

A. No.

Q Have you been informed of the fires on the coconuts

to the conflagration of property at the coconut grove? A. No.

Q In particular your house, did you ever observe any activities

or the people of the fire? or to the firemen held by the coconut

grove? A. No.

Q How many times did this occur? A. Two times.

Q This was for creating a disturbance? Yes, but the management took care of the matters.

Q Have you ever observed any violations in the Cocoanut Grove of the terms of their licenses? A. No.

Q When you did have occasion to enter the premises of the Cocoanut Grove, did you make any observations? A. There was a crowd there, but all was orderly with the exception of one intoxicated person.

Q Would you say that the business was being conducted in a lawful and orderly manner in the Cocoanut Grove? A. Yes.

Q Have you ever observed any loitering or disturbances outside of the Cocoanut Grove? A. No.

Q Have you ever had occasion to enter the Cocoanut Grove for the purpose of delivering notifications from the Licensing Board or any other documents? A. No.

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Q How many times did this occur? A. Two times.

Q Did you not observe a disturbance; yes, but the measurement face was not observed a disturbance to enter the coconut grove to face of first licensee; A. No.

Q When you did have occasion to enter the premises of the coconut grove, did you make any observations; A. There was a cloud

Q Have you ever observed any activities in the coconut grove; A. No.

Q Have you ever seen any lofting or disturbances outside of the coconut grove; A. Yes.

Q Would you say that the problem was being considered in a lawful and orderly manner in the coconut grove; A. Yes.

Q Have you ever observed any lofting or disturbances outside of the coconut grove; A. No.

Q Have you ever had occasion to enter the coconut grove for purposes of determining administration from the licensing board

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of the bases questions; A. No.

people', but all saw orderly with the exception of one intoxicated person.

Q Would you say that the problem was being considered in a lawful and orderly manner in the coconut grove; A. Yes.

Statement of THOMAS J. TIGHE

Q (By Captain McCarthy) What is your name? A. Thomas J. Tighe.

Q To what division are you attached? A. Division Four.

Q You are a night officer? A. Yes.

Q What is your assignment on Division Four? A. Eight Route.

Q Does that route cover the premises of the Cocoanut Grove? A. Yes.

Q Have you ever had occasion to enter the Cocoanut Grove? A. No, I have never been called in there.

Q Have you received any complaints from any source relative to the conducting of business at the Cocoanut Grove? A. No.

Q How long have you been assigned to Eight Route on Division Four?

A In the vicinity of two years.

Q During that period of time, your tour of duty has been during the night? A. Yes.

Q Have you ever observed any disturbances on the exterior of the Cocoanut Grove, either on Piedmont Street, Shawmut Street, or Broadway? A. No.

Q To the best of your knowledge, would you say the management of the Cocoanut Grove had been conducting business in an orderly manner? A. Yes, as far as I know.

Q Have you ever had occasion to deliver any notifications or papers from the Licensing Board to the Cocoanut Grove? A. No.

Q If you had observed any violations of the terms of their licenses, you would have made a written report to your commanding officers?

A Yes.

Q Have you ever had occasion to make such a report? A. Never.

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Examined by Thomas J. Jones

Q. (By Commissioner McCarthy) What is your name? A. Thomas J. Jones.

Q. To what station are you attached? A. Division Four.

Q. You are a night officer? A. Yes.

Q. What is your assignment on Division Four? A. Night house.

Q. Does that take care of the Lincoln or the Cocoanut Grove? A. Yes.

Q. Have you ever had occasion to enter the Cocoanut Grove? A. No.

I have never been called in there.

Q. Have you received any complaints from any source relative to the conducting of business at the Cocoanut Grove? A. No.

Q. How long have you been assigned to night house on Division Four?

A. In the vicinity of two years.

Q. During your period of duty, your post to duty has been during the night?

A. Yes.

Q. Have you ever observed any disturbances on the exterior of the place? A. Yes.

Q. Have you ever had occasion to report the Cocoanut Grove? A. No.

Q. Does that come under the Lincoln or the Cocoanut Grove? A. Yes.

Q. What is your assignment on Division Four? A. Night house.

Q. To what station are you attached? A. Division Four.

Q. You are a night officer? A. Yes.

Q. Have you received any complaints from any source relative to the conducting of business at the Cocoanut Grove? A. No.

Q. Have you ever had occasion to enter the Cocoanut Grove? A. No.

I have never been called in there.

Q. Have you ever had occasion to report the Cocoanut Grove? A. No.

Q. Have you received any complaints from any source relative to the conducting of business at the Cocoanut Grove? A. No.

Q. How long have you been assigned to night house on Division Four?

A. In the vicinity of two years.

Q. During your period of duty, your post to duty has been during the night?

A. Yes.

Q. Have you ever had occasion to report the Cocoanut Grove? A. No.